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Geoff Brown
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THE TIMES

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THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23 1995

Cautious welcome for Ulster plan

'Read it, study it, talk about it... think of the prize at the end'

By Philip Webster
Political Editor

MAIN POINTS

- Key points from the framework document:
 - A Northern Ireland Assembly elected by proportional representation, with wide ranging legislative powers.
 - A North/South body of elected representatives of the Northern Ireland Assembly and the Irish Parliament.
 - An end to Irish constitutional claim to Northern Ireland.
 - A parliamentary forum of representatives from the North and South to hold wider discussions.
 - Changes to British law to recognise the right of the people of Northern Ireland to decide their future, whether they opt to be part of the UK or back a united Ireland.
 - Separate referendums in North and South with a majority needed in each case for the proposals to go ahead.
 - Guarantees by both governments to protect civil, political, social and cultural rights in the province.
 - Increased London and Dublin co-operation through standing inter-governmental conference, but no right to interfere with the Northern Ireland Assembly.

JOHN MAJOR'S gamble for peace in Northern Ireland appeared to have passed its first crucial test last night as he rode the expected Unionist backlash against the London-Dublin plan for the future of the Province.

A fierce reaction among Ulster Protestant politicians to the framework document, which many at Westminster found surprisingly nationalist in tone, failed to derail the search for a constitutional settlement that could change forever the political landscape in Northern Ireland.

A warm cross-party welcome for the Prime Minister in the Commons and a muted response on the streets of Belfast prompted optimism among British ministers last night that, after a period of reflection, Unionist leaders would come to the negotiating table. Even Conservatives with strong Unionist sympathies gave the framework document a guarded welcome.

Politicians underlined the sharp contrast with the outcry that greeted the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement nearly ten years ago, when Unionist MPs resigned their seats and people protested in Belfast.

A statement from James Moynihan, the Ulster Unionist leader, in which he spoke of a lengthy period of consultations, strengthened ministers' hopes that Ulster's largest party would not boycott the talks process. The Government went out of its way to welcome the tabling of alternative plans by both the main Unionist parties as a sign that it did not want to turn its back on future talks at a time when the Province has enjoyed almost six months of peace.

As he launched the historic document in Belfast with John Bruton, his Irish counterpart, Mr Major told the Unionists: "Read it, study it, think about it, discuss it, talk about it... let it mature. Think of the overall prize that lies at the end."

There was, however, no hiding the fury of the Union-

Minister of promoting a "dishonourable blueprint for an all-Ireland".

Ministers voiced strong optimism, however, that in spite of what some accepted as a nationalist "dynamic" in the document, the so-called "triple lock" safeguards—which prevent any changes in the constitutional relationships unless parties, people and Parliament have agreed them—would eventually persuade the Unionists that they had nothing to fear.

With most of the Unionists staying away from the chamber, Mr Major's Commons reception was cautious but supportive. He assured MPs he was "a Unionist who wants peace for all the people of the Union". He said: "I cherish Northern Ireland's role within the Union. I have no intention whatsoever of letting that role change unless it is the democratic wish of the people of Northern Ireland to do so."

He emphasised that he wanted to break the "spiral of despair" in Northern Ireland. "It is right to try," he said. "I don't believe any Prime Minister of the United Kingdom... could or should sit in Downing Street without actively trying to find a way out of the problems that have existed for so long."

MPs cheered as the Prime Minister spoke of his hopes of ending violence in the Province so that "the next generation may not face the privations, the murders, the sorrow, the hardship, the deaths and the funerals" endured in the past 25 years.

The proposals in the document bear a close resemblance to those leaked by *The Times* three weeks ago. The cornerstone is a constitutional exchange between London and Dublin, under which the Republic relinquishes its historic claim to the territory. In return, London will propose changes to its constitutional legislation to accept the will of the majority in Northern Ireland either to remain part of the United Kingdom or to opt for a united Ireland.

In one important passage Continued on page 2, col 1



Appeal for Unionist support: John Major and the Irish Prime Minister, John Bruton, launch their framework document in Belfast yesterday

'You British are just waving us goodbye'

By Alan Hamilton

AT 1.30 yesterday afternoon the National Lottery counter at Belfast's main post office in Royal Avenue experienced a sudden rush. But the demand was for documents relating to an entirely different game of chance, in which the odds are infinitely more difficult to calculate.

The manager had received 500 copies of the framework document launched in a Prime Ministerial media circus four hours before. He was besieged by at least 50 people, many demanding up to half a dozen copies for friends, relatives or neighbours. It was, he said, his hottest line since the Downing Street declaration, and he began to ration them to one copy per outstretched hand.

Among the eager customers, a Loyalist view prevailed. "I can tell you what this is without opening it," an elderly

lady at the front of the queue said. "You British are just waving us goodbye." Her companion was more tolerant. "They had to do something, didn't they? At least we'll take it home and give it a read."

It could not be said, however, that Belfast was afire with excitement at publication of the landmark document. Perhaps it was the bitter, sleeting rain lashing the city. Bad weather is always a good time to unveil controversial proposals: it dampens the ardour. Belfast is also now a city that displays an unfamiliar air of ordinariness. Checkpoints are long gone, shoppers are no longer searched, designer clothes shops do passably brisk business, and although the grey-armoured Land Rovers of the RUC still prowled the streets, the Army has virtually vanished. But for the fact that the police carry handguns, as they did long

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before the present quarter-century of trouble erupted, the casual visitor could readily mistake Belfast for Leicester or Wigan. Except, of course, that members of minorities in Northern Ireland are not readily distinguishable by skin colour.

The city wears an expression of grim determination to pursue a normal life. Even the demonstrations were pathetic. At Hillsborough in the early morning Mr Major and Mr Bruton appeared for a photocall during a brief break

in the rain. A small knot of protesters burned a piece of paper representing the document, as the real thing had not yet arrived at post offices, and scuffled half-heartedly with police.

Outside the Balmoral conference centre, set among the genteel villas of South Belfast, where two greyish prime ministers were presenting their plans to journalists, half a dozen demonstrators huddled under Union Jack umbrellas and held a soggy poster up to the railings: "No role for Dublin: Ulster is British". The reality of Ulster life,

however, is never far away. With two prime ministers in the same building, the conference centre was thick with armed RUC officers, several of them carrying automatic weapons.

The two entered together and stood at matching dark blue lecterns, smilingly refusing the requests of photographers to hold up the document they had come to promote. At the back of the hall, television crews from as far away as the US and Australia recorded Mr Major's smart blue silk tie. Continued on page 2, col 7

Skiers flee return of winter gales

GALES, snow, hail, and electrical storms brought winter back to Britain yesterday, with 1,500 skiers evacuated from the Cairngorms amid 80mph winds. Worst affected were mid and west Wales and the Scottish hills.

Sleet hit London and the South-east late last night.

Britain lashed, page 6
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Cost of a prescription rises to £5.25

By Jeremy Laurence
Health Services Correspondent

PRESCRIPTION charges are to rise by 50 pence — from £4.75 to £5.25 — from April 1, the Government announced yesterday. The 10.5 per cent rise, more than three times the rate of inflation, takes the fee to more than 26 times its 1979 level of 20 pence.

The maximum charge for a single course of dental treatment is also going up — by about 9 per cent, from £275 to £300 — from April 1. But the value of vouchers provided for children and those on income support to buy spectacles and contact lenses is to rise by an average of 3.25 per cent.

Labour accused the Govern-

ment of timing the announcement to coincide with the Northern Ireland statement. Margaret Beckett, the Shadow Health Secretary, said that if the 1979 charge of 20p had kept pace with inflation, it would be 52p today.

Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, said the new charge was still significantly less than the £8.80 average total cost to the National Health Service of a single prescription item. In 1979 it was one-tenth of the average cost. The total number of prescriptions dispensed has risen from 300 million to almost 400 million during the past ten years.

Only one in five is paid for, compared with two in five in the 1970s. Free prescriptions are dispensed to children, the



Beckett: condemned the timing of announcement

elderly and those receiving income support, who are the largest consumers of medicines. For this reason, the higher charge is expected to

raise only £310 million towards the total drugs bill of more than £3 billion next year.

Mr Malone said: "Our exemption arrangements continue to be among the most generous in Europe. Only those who can afford to do so are asked to pay charges."

The rising cost has had a deterrent effect on those who have to pay. In 1979 an average of 5.3 items were dispensed to paying patients, but by 1992 this had dropped to 2.7 items per patient.

The Government defended the increase, saying that those who could afford to do so should make a small contribution towards the increased spending on the NHS.

Body and Mind, page 15

US admits CIA spying in France

THE Clinton Administration reacted angrily last night after the French Government accused five Americans of spying and asked them to leave.

Washington admitted that four of the Americans were officers of the Central Intelligence Agency. It said two of the men had been involved in espionage, but that the second pair had not been spies.

A senior American official said that the matter was being dealt with, along with the case of the fifth American civilian asked to go. Washington was annoyed that the case had become public.

Balladur move, page 11

Robert Bolt, writer for all seasons, dies aged 70



Bolt: wrote scripts for classic historical epics

By Joe Joseph

ROBERT BOLT, whose screenplays for *Dr Zhivago*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *A Man For All Seasons* made him a hugely rich, hugely famous but not always hugely fashionable playwright, has died at home in Hampshire. He was 70.

Bolt had a history of heart trouble, and a stroke in 1979 had left him speechless and unable to walk for two years. Sarah Miles, his actress wife, whom he married, divorced, and remarried, was by his side when he died on Monday. His assistant Julie Nighingale said: "He died watching TV at about 10pm. He was so cheerful and robust, and he was working right up until the end."

Adrian Wootton, head of the British Film Institute, ranked Bolt as one of the country's finest screenwriters, adding that his relationship with David Lean was one of the most important director/screenwriter collaborations. "Without him, I don't believe *Lawrence of Arabia* or *Dr Zhivago* would have been the great films they were. He was responsible, with Lean, for helping to maintain Britain's reputation for sweeping historical epics which were commercially popular and critically acclaimed."

Paul Scofield, who played Sir Thomas More in *A Man For All Seasons*, on stage and screen, remembered Bolt fondly as "an exceptional playwright and screenwriter."

Bolt was in the middle of adapting Jung Chang's novel *Wild Swans* for the BBC and had just finished a film about the young Richard Nixon for American TV. These late blooms, along with early plays such as *Vivat Vivat Reginald*, and films such as *Ryan's Daughter*, were not the legacy Bolt had expected to bequeath when he left school in Manchester at 16.

He buckled down to learning belatedly, immersing himself briefly, but passionately, into the Communist Party, and later becoming a teacher in Devon. It was while writing the school's Christmas nativity play that he discovered his talent.

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Geoff Brown on Film, page 33

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Northern Ireland document could open door to the house of peace, says Tony Blair

MPs put on united front to promote framework initiative

By Alice Thomson and James Landale

JOHN MAJOR yesterday won wide cross-party support in the Commons for his latest joint effort with Dublin to bring peace to Northern Ireland.

While Unionist MPs voiced dissent at the joint framework document, Tory and Labour backbenchers praised the role of the Irish and British governments in the search for an end to 25 years of bloodshed.

But the public backing for the Prime Minister from Conservatives concealed misgivings on the Right of the party that the Government had tilted too far towards the nationalists in reaching its accord with Dublin. "You have only got to look at the smiles on the faces of Sinn Féin and the SDLP to know the way it has come out," one critic said.

THE DEBATE

Leading rightwingers stifled their concerns for fear of being accused of endangering the ceasefire and because of Mr Major's admitted skill in building in "safety valves" — the promise to consider every party's proposals for the way ahead and the guarantee of a referendum on any final package.

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, told MPs that "the house of peace" had stayed shut and locked in Northern Ireland for too many years. "This agreement is the key to its door," he said. "No doubt entering in will pose its own risks and challenges. But how much better that will be than to stay for ever outside, battered by

the elements of hatred and mistrust."

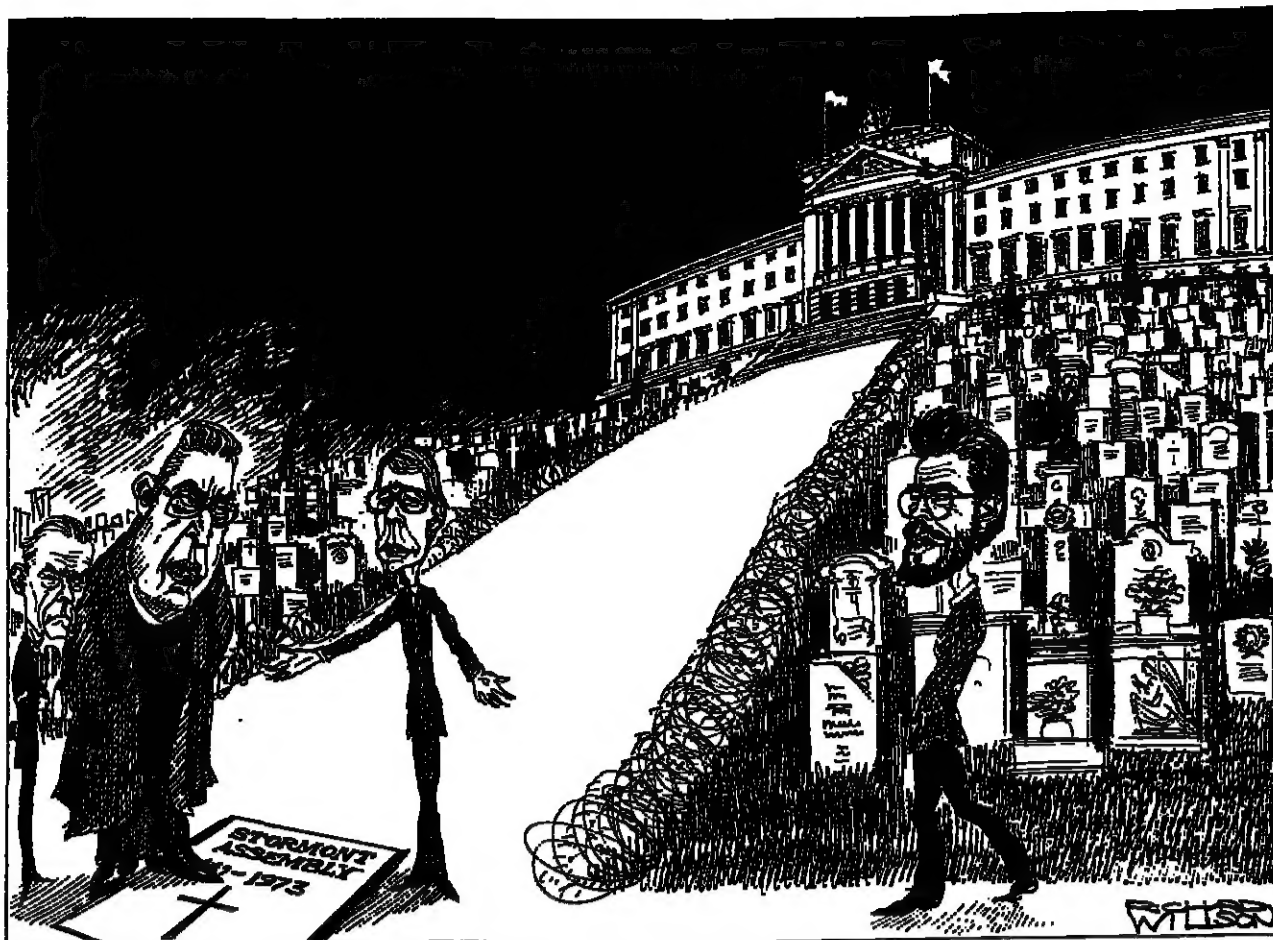
Mr Blair said he supported Mr Major without hesitation over the peace process and assured the House: "the people in Northern Ireland should know that whatever party is in Government this process will continue, pursued with the same patience and determination and motivated by the same desire for peace."

The Labour leader told MPs that they had to trust that the documents were for consultation "not dictat" and threatened no one's fundamental interests.

As his backbenchers cheered, Mr Blair concluded: "Today, therefore, across the House of Commons, let hope shape history: the hope of the ordinary decent people in Northern Ireland, of both traditions, that they should be freed from the tyranny of violence to enjoy the peace which they deserve and which we have all sought for so long."

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, was the only MP to score party political points. Speaking from Washington DC, he said: "The Prime Minister deserves credit for his perseverance in pursuit of peace. However the progress in Northern Ireland is just about the only success of one of the most inept British administrations of the 20th century."

Dennis Canavan, chairman of Labour's Northern Ireland committee, asked the Prime Minister to "make it absolutely clear that a boycott by any



political party would not be able to jeopardise any possible peace settlement?" Mr Major said he did not wish to put any party "beyond the pale of these discussions" as long as they were legitimate and democratic.

Kevin McNamara, the former Labour spokesman on Ireland, congratulated both the British and Irish governments for yesterday's historic document but warned that further progress would come only with "careful attention" paid to the rightful aspirations of the both traditional communities in Northern Ireland. "On the basis of that decision, nobody has anything to fear from entering into further negotiations," he said.

Alan Beith, for the Liberal Democrats, said that while the three main parties in the Commons were unusually united over the document, there were bound to be some differences of opinion. "We, for example, feel that a Bill of Rights should have been part of the framework," he said.

No members of the Rev Ian Paisley's Democratic Unionist party attended the Commons and only two Ulster Unionist MPs were present. Ken Maginnis, the Ulster Unionist

security spokesman, told Mr Major angrily: "When you come to write your memoirs, do you believe that, like your predecessor, you will regret your part in driving Northern Ireland back at least ten years by promoting this dishonourable blueprint for an all-Ireland?"

Mr Maginnis continued: "Are you confident that the IRA has fully understood your message enshrined in the Framework Document that when they resume their violence, they should not bomb

the Baltic Exchange, since your Government has now distanced itself from the 90 per cent of the people of Northern Ireland who have eschewed violence over the past 20 years and who have vested their faith in the ballot box?"

Mr Major's eloquent reply hushed the House. "I understand the strong feelings you have about this matter. But I do beg you to examine more carefully what is in the document and the way the document intends to proceed. I cannot accept that it drives

Northern Ireland back 10 years to try to seek a peace that may be permanently entrenched in Northern Ireland after generations of mistrust and hatred."

The Prime Minister continued: "I would say this, to you and everyone in Northern Ireland: our determination to resist terrorism has always been there. If you want my message to the Irish Republican Army, it is that while they bomb, while they kill, they have an implacable opponent in Downing Street, and in this Government."

"If they are prepared to talk and return to democratic politics, they will have a ready ear to discuss with them how they may return to democratic politics, so that your constituents in the next generation may not face the privations, the murders, the sorrow, the hardship, the deaths and the funerals year after year that you have to suffer for your constituents in the past."

John Hume, the SDLP leader, sought to reassure Unionists and stressed: "This problem cannot be resolved without the participation and agreement of the Unionist people because of their geography and their numbers."



John Hume, leader of the SDLP, left, and Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist security spokesman

Cautious welcome for Ulster paper

Continued from page 1
the document says that if a majority of the people in Northern Ireland "wish for and formally consent to the establishment of a united Ireland, the two governments will introduce and support legislation to give effect to that wish."

The most controversial section, however, relates to the establishment of a joint North-South body, which will be made up of senior members of a new 90-member Northern Ireland assembly and ministers representing the Irish parliament. While it will be for the parties eventually to approve the functions to be given to the new cross-border institutions, MPs were surprised by the scale of the potential tasks to be covered.

The Governments are proposing a series of consultative, harmonising and executive

functions. In the executive category, the document suggests marketing and promotion activities abroad, culture and heritage and European Union programmes and initiatives.

The two Governments also suggest that certain activities in the spheres of agriculture, transport, energy, trade, health, education and economic policy should be harmonised. British ministers insisted that they were only talking about limited functions, and gave as examples cross-border provision of hospital services, or mutual recognition of teacher qualifications.

Disputes within the proposed North-South body will be referred to the new standing inter-governmental conference representing Dublin and London. The two Governments will not, however, be able to exercise joint authority

to deal with any problems. Each Government will be able to deal only with its own jurisdiction, a weakening of the "default mechanism" originally sought by Dublin.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton had earlier emphasised that no deal would be imposed without full consent. The Prime Minister told the people of Northern Ireland: "These are our ideas but the future is up to you. You have an opportunity now which has not been there for many years, an opportunity to work together to build a better future and a lasting peace."

"Just as people cannot be held within the Union against their will, so equally they will never be asked to leave it in defiance of the will of the majority."

Mr Bruton insisted — in the face of Unionist claims that the document was the first

step on the road to a united Ireland — that the document was balanced and fair. "The proposals will challenge the two traditions on this island but will do so in an even-handed way," he said. "Neither tradition need fear its contents."

The response on the streets of Belfast was restrained, but copies of the document were being snapped up from post offices. The hardline Democratic Unionist Party said the package amounted to an "eviction notice" to Northern Ireland to leave the United Kingdom.

Mr Paisley described the framework document as "a one-way street to Dublin" and boycotted the Prime Minister's Commons statement. He told the Prime Minister: "You have sold Northern Ireland out. You have sold out the Union."

WHAT THEY SAID

For the first time in a generation, an opportunity now exists in Northern Ireland to transcend old animosities and to create the basis for a broader agreement, enabling all concerned to emerge from the shadow of a troubled past.

Mary Robinson, President of Ireland

I am not going to be a persuader for a United Ireland. I am a Unionist who wants peace for the Unionists, peace for the Nationalists and a rational, sane future for Northern Ireland. We seek to help peace, but only the people of Northern Ireland can deliver it.

John Major

The document is not a prescription for an unpalatable dose of medicine. It is not a blueprint rigidly to be imposed on the people of Northern Ireland.

John Bruton, the Taoiseach

Its ethos is for one Ireland and an all Ireland arrangement.

Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Féin

This dishonourable blueprint for an all Ireland

Ken Maginnis, Ulster Unionist MP

Ulster has been served with an eviction notice

Peter Robinson, deputy leader, Democratic Unionist Party

A one way street to Dublin

Ian Paisley, leader of the DUP

What the IRA could not get out of the barrel of a gun, they are getting from the government

William McCrea, DUP MP for Mid Ulster

I don't think there has been any previous document that has gone as far to reconcile for rational purposes the different aspirations of the people of Ireland, both north and south

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, Home Secretary in 1969

'Waving goodbye'

Continued from page 1
and Mr Bruton's more subdued number of indeterminate colour.

Beneath Mr Major's lectern sat the sleek Sir Patrick Mayhew, looking like a Cheshire cat that had just enjoyed a rather good Middle Temple dinner, and the owlish Michael Ancram, gazing at the ceiling through large spectacles. Beneath Mr Bruton sat a rich representation of Republican tradition: the spare Dick Spring, looking as though he could still be a useful Ireland rugby international; the flame-haired Nora Owen, Irish justice minister and grand-niece of Michael Collins; and Proinsias de Rossa, leader of the Dail's Democratic left, who was once interned in the Republic for dirtying his hands with the IRA youth wing.

Mr Major and Mr Bruton could have been a pair of insurance salesmen peddling a personal pension plan under that industry's new, more circumspect selling practice. "These are our ideas, but the future is up to you," Mr Major said. No obligation to buy sir, but do read the prospectus.

Soft-sell was the order of the morning. Absolutely no sales pressure on you, sir; it's entirely your decision. "We must put aside old shibboleths."

"What about the leak in The Times?" an Irish journalist asked. "Rubbish," Mr Major said. "Taken without the context, a wholly wrong impression has been created."

He fielded all questions expertly, declining to be pinned down on anything at all beyond the nuts and bolts of the document. "This has to be by consent, by agreement; slow, difficult, painful, but it's the only way."

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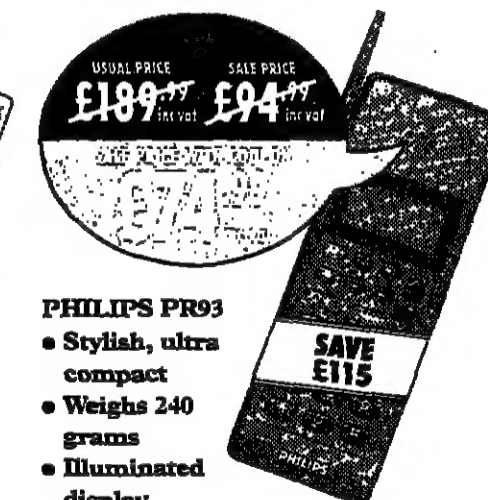
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2 years

Wary approach contrasts with condemnation

Modest realities lurk behind all-embracing rhetoric of document

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'It is now time to lay aside, with dignity and forbearance, the mistakes of the past'

Everyone has a role in perpetuating peace and freedom

This is the text of the framework document:

THE Joint Declaration acknowledges that the most urgent and important issue facing the people of Ireland, North and South, and the British and Irish Governments together, is to remove the causes of conflict, to overcome the legacy of history and to heal the divisions which have resulted.

Both Governments recognise that there is much for deep regret on all sides in the long and often tragic history of Anglo-Irish relations, and of relations in Ireland. They believe it is time to lay aside, with dignity and forbearance, the mistakes of the past. A collective effort is needed to create, through agreement and reconciliation, a new beginning founded on consent.

The arrangements made by the Irish Republican Army on 31 August 1994 and the Combined Loyalist Military Command on 13 October 1994 are a welcome response to the profound desire of people throughout these islands for a permanent end to the violence which caused such immense suffering and served only to reinforce the barriers of fear and hatred, impeding the search for agreement.

A climate of peace enables the process of healing to begin. It transforms the prospects for political progress, building on that already made in the Talks process. Everyone now has a role to play in moving irreversibly beyond the failures of the past and creating new relationships capable of perpetuating peace with freedom and justice.

Both Governments are

This document is not a rigid blueprint to be imposed

aware that the approach in this document presents challenges to strongly held positions on all sides. This document is not a rigid blueprint to be imposed but both Governments believe it sets out a realistic and balanced framework for agreement which could be achieved, with flexibility and goodwill on all sides.

The primary objective of both Governments in their approach to Northern Ireland is to promote and establish agreement among the people of the island of Ireland, building on the Joint Declaration. To this end they will both deploy their political resources with the aim of securing a new and comprehensive agreement involving the relevant political parties in Northern Ireland and commanding the widest possible support.

They take as guiding principles for their co-operation in search of this agreement: (i) the principle of self-determination, as set out in the Joint Declaration; (ii) that the consent of the governed is an essential ingredient for stability in any political arrangement;

(iii) that agreement must be pursued and established by exclusively democratic, peaceful means, without resort to violence or coercion; (iv) that any new political arrangements must be based on full respect for, and protection and expression of, the rights and identities of both traditions in Ireland and even-handedly afford both communities in Northern Ireland parity of esteem and treatment, including equality of opportunity and advantage.

They acknowledge that in Northern Ireland, unlike the situation which prevails elsewhere throughout both islands, there is a fundamental

absence of consensus about constitutional issues.

In their search for political agreement, based on consent, the two Governments aim to overcome the legacy of division by reconciling the rights of both traditions in the fullest and most equitable manner.

The two Governments will work together with the parties to achieve a comprehensive accommodation, the implementation of which would include interlocking and mutually supportive institutions across the three strands, including:

(a) structures within Northern Ireland — to enable elected representatives in Northern Ireland to exercise shared administrative and legislative control over all those matters that can be agreed across both communities and which can most effectively and appropriately be dealt with at that level; (b) North-South institutions — with clear identity and purpose, to enable representatives of democratic institutions, North and South, to enter into new, co-operative and constructive relationships; to promote agreement among the people of the island of Ireland; to carry out on a democratically accountable basis delegated executive, harmonising and consultative functions over a range of designated matters to be agreed; and to serve to acknowledge and reconcile the rights, identities and aspirations of the two major traditions;

(c) East-West structures — to enhance the existing basis for co-operation between the two Governments, and to promote support and underwrite the fair and effective operation of the new arrangements.

CONSTITUTIONAL ISSUES

Both Governments accept that agreement on an overall settlement requires, inter alia, a balanced accommodation of the differing views of the two main traditions on the constitutional issues in relation to the special position of Northern Ireland.

Given the absence of consensus about depth of divisions between the two main traditions in Northern Ireland, the two Governments agree that such an accommodation will involve an agreed new approach to the traditional constitutional doctrines on both sides.

In their approach to Northern Ireland they will apply the principle of self-determination by the people of Ireland on the basis set out in the Joint Declaration: the British Government recognises that it is for the people of Ireland alone, by agreement between the two parts respectively and without external impediment, to exercise their right of self-determination on the basis of consent, freely and concurrently given, North and South, to bring about a united Ireland, if that is their wish; the Irish Government accepts that the democratic right of self-determination by the people of Ireland as a whole must be achieved and exercised with and subject to the agreement and consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland.

New arrangements should be in accordance with the commitments in the Anglo-Irish Agreement and in the Joint Declaration. They should acknowledge that it would be wrong to make any change in the status of Northern Ireland save with the consent of a majority of the people of Northern Ireland, if in future a majority of the people there wish for and formally consent to the establishment of a united Ireland, the two Governments will introduce and support legislation to give effect to that wish.

Both Governments recognise that Northern Ireland's

current constitutional status reflects and relies upon the present wish of a majority of its people. They also acknowledge that at present a substantial minority of its people wish for a united Ireland. Reaffirming the commitment to encourage, facilitate and enable the achievement of agreement over a period among all the people who inhabit the island, they acknowledge that the option of a sovereign united Ireland does not command the consent of the unionist tradition, nor does the existing status of Northern Ireland command the consent of the nationalist tradition. Against this background, they acknowledge the need for new arrangements and structures — to reflect the reality of diverse aspirations, to reconcile as fully as possible the rights of both traditions, and to promote co-operation between them, so as to foster the process of developing agreement and consensus between all the people of Ireland.

They agree that future arrangements to Northern Ireland, and Northern Ireland's wider relationships, should respect the full and equal legitimacy and worth of the identity, sense of allegiance, aspiration and ethos of both the unionist and nationalist communities there. Consequently, both Governments commit themselves to the principle that institutions and arrangements in Northern Ireland and North-South institutions should afford both communities secure and satisfactory political, administrative and symbolic expression and protection. In particular, they commit themselves to entrenched provisions guaranteeing equitable and effective political participation for whichever community finds itself in a minority position by reference to the Northern Ireland framework, or the wider Irish framework, as the case may be, consequent upon the operation of the principle of consent.

The British Government reaffirms that they will uphold the democratic wish of a greater number of the people of Northern Ireland on the issue of whether they prefer to support the Union or sovereign united Ireland. On this basis, they reiterate that they have no selfish strategic or economic interest in Northern Ireland. For as long as the democratic wish of the people of Northern Ireland is for no change in its present status, the British Government pledges that their jurisdiction there will be exercised with rigorous impartiality on behalf of all the people of Northern Ireland in their diversity. It will be founded on the principles outlined in the previous paragraph with emphasis on full respect for, and equality of, civil political, social and cultural rights and freedom from discrimination for all citizens, on parity of esteem, and on just and equal treatment for the identity, ethos and aspirations of both communities. The British Government will discharge their responsibilities in a way which does not prejudice the freedom of the people of Northern Ireland to determine, by peaceful and democratic means, its future constitutional status, whether in remaining a part of the United Kingdom or in forming part of a united Ireland. They will be equally cognizant of their option and open to its democratic realisation, and will not impede the latter option, their primary interest being to see peace, stability and reconciliation established by agreement among the people who inhabit the island. This new approach for Northern Ireland, based on the continuing willingness to accept the will of a majority of the people there, will be en-



Members of the public collecting copies of the framework document from a post office in Belfast yesterday

shrined in the British constitutional legislation embodying the principles and commitments in the Joint Declaration and this Framework Document, either by amendment of the Government of Ireland Act 1920 or by its replacement by appropriate new legislation, and appropriate new provisions entrenched by agreement.

As part of an agreement confirming the foregoing understanding between the two Governments on constitutional issues, the Irish Government will introduce and support proposals for change in the Irish Constitution to implement the commitments in the Joint Declaration. These changes in the Irish Constitution will fully reflect the principle of consent in Northern Ireland and demonstrably be such that no territorial claim of right to jurisdiction over Northern Ireland contrary to the will of a majority of its people is asserted, while maintaining the existing birthright of everyone born in either jurisdiction in Ireland to be part, as of right, of the Irish nation. They will enable a new Agreement to be ratified which will include, as part of a new and equitable dispensation for Northern Ireland embodying the principles and

We aim to reconcile the rights of both traditions

commitments in the Joint Declaration and this Framework Document, recognition by both Governments of the legitimacy of whatever choice is freely exercised by a majority of the people of Northern Ireland with regard to its constitutional status, whether they prefer to continue to support the Union or a sovereign united Ireland.

STRUCTURES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

Both Governments recognise that new political structures within Northern Ireland must depend on the co-operation of elected representatives there. They confirm that cross-community agreement is an essential requirement for the establishment and operation of such structures. They strongly favour and will support provision for cross-community consensus in relation to decisions affecting the basic rights, concerns and fundamental interests of both communities.

While the principle and overall context for such new structures are a recognised concern of both Governments in the exercise of their respective responsibilities, they consider that the structures

themselves would be most effectively negotiated, as part of a comprehensive three-stranded process, in direct dialogue involving the relevant political parties in Northern Ireland who would be called upon to operate them.

NORTH-SOUTH INSTITUTIONS

Both Governments consider that new institutions should be created to cater adequately for present and future political, social and economic interconnections on the island of Ireland, enabling representatives of the main traditions, North and South, to enter agreed dynamic, new, co-operative and constructive relationships.

Both Governments agree that these institutions should include a North-South body involving Heads of Department on both sides and duly established and maintained by legislation in both sovereign Parliaments. This body would bring together the Heads of Department representing the Irish Government and new democratic institutions in Northern Ireland, to discharge or oversee delegated executive, harmonising or consultative functions, as appropriate, over a range of matters which the two Governments designate in the first instance in agreement with the parties or which the two administrations, North and South, subsequently agree to designate. It is envisaged that, in determining functions to be discharged or overseen by the North-South body, whether by executive action, harmonisation or consultation, account will be taken of: (i) the common interest in a given matter on the part of both parts of the island; or (ii) the mutual advantage of addressing a matter together; or (iii) the mutual benefit which may derive from it being administered by the North-South body; or (iv) the achievement of economies of scale and the avoidance of unnecessary duplication of effort.

In relevant posts in each of the two administrations participating in the North-South body would be a duty of service. Both Governments believe that the legislation should provide for a clear institutional identity and purpose for the North-South body. It would also establish the body's terms of reference, legal status and arrangements for political, legal, administrative and financial accountability. The North-South body could operate through, or oversee, a range of functionally-related subsidiary bodies or other entities established to administer designated functions on an all-island or cross-border basis.

Specific arrangements would need to be developed to apply to EU matters. Any EU matter relevant to the competence of either administration could be raised for consideration in the North-South body. Across all designated matters and in accordance with the delegated functions, both Governments agree that the body will have an important role, with their support and co-operation and in consultation with them, in developing on a continuing basis an agreed approach for the whole island in respect of the challenges and opportunities of the European Union. In respect of matters designated at the executive level, which would include all EC programmes and initiatives to be implemented on a cross-border or island-wide basis in Ireland, the body itself would be responsible, subject to the Treaty obligations of each Government, for the implementation and management of EC policies and programmes on a joint basis. This would include the preparation, in consultation with the two Governments, of joint submissions under EC programmes and initiatives and their joint monitoring and implementation, although individual projects could be implemented either jointly or separately.

Both Governments envisage regular and frequent meetings of the North-South body: □ to discharge the functions agreed for it in relation to a range of matters designated for treatment on an all-Ireland or cross-border basis; □ to oversee the work of subsidiary bodies.

The two Governments envisage that legislation in the sovereign Parliaments should designate those functions which should, from the outset, be discharged or overseen by the North-South body; and they will seek agreement on these, as on other features of North-South arrangements, in discussion with the relevant political parties in Northern Ireland. It would also be open to the North-South body to recommend to the respective administrations and legislatures for their consideration that new functions should be designated to be discharged or overseen by that body; and to recommend that matters already designated should be moved on the scale between consultation, harmonisation and executive action. Within those responsibilities transferred to new institutions in Northern Ireland, the British Government have no limits of their own to impose on the nature and extent of functions which could be agreed for designation at the outset or, subsequently, between the Irish Government and the Northern Ireland administration. Both Governments expect that significant responsibilities, including meaningful functions at execu-

tive level, will be a feature of such agreement. The British Government believe that, in principle, any function devolved to the institutions in Northern Ireland could be so designated, subject to any necessary savings in respect of the British Government's powers and duties, for example to ensure compliance with EU and international obligations. The Irish Government also expect to designate a comparable range of functions.

Although both Governments envisage that representatives of North and South in the body could raise for discussion any matter of interest to either side which falls within the competence of ei-

Both sides would share a duty to consult about policy

ther administration, it is envisaged that its designated functions would fall into three broad categories:

Consultative: The North-South body would be a forum where the two sides would consult on any aspect of designated matters on which either side wished to hold consultations. Both sides would share a duty to exchange information and to consult about existing and future policy, though there would be no formal requirement that agreement would be reached or that policy would be harmonised or implemented jointly.

Harmonising: In respect of these designated responsibilities there would be, in addition to the duty to exchange information and to consult on the formulation of policy, an obligation on both sides to use their best endeavours to reach agreement on a common policy and to make determined efforts to overcome any obstacles in the way of that objective, even though its implementation might be undertaken by the two administrations separately.

Executive: In the case of these designated responsibilities the North-South body would itself be directly responsible for the establishment of an agreed policy and for its implementation on a joint basis. It would however be open to the body, where appropriate, to agree that the implementation of the agreed policy would be undertaken either by existing bodies, acting in an agency capacity, whether jointly or separately, North and South, or by new bodies specifically created and mandated for this purpose.

In this light, both Governments are continuing to give consideration to the range of functions that might, with the

agreement of the parties, be designated at the outset and accordingly they will be ready to make proposals in that regard in future discussions with the relevant Northern Ireland parties.

By way of illustration, it is intended that these proposals would include at the executive level a range of functions, clearly defined in scope, from within the following broad categories: sectors involving a natural or physical all-Ireland framework: EC programmes and initiatives; marketing and promotion activities abroad; and culture and heritage.

Again, by way of illustration, the Governments would make proposals at the harmonising level for a broader range of functions, clearly defined in scope (including, as appropriate, relevant EU aspects), from within the following categories: aspects of agriculture and fisheries; industrial development; consumer affairs; transport; energy; trade; health; social welfare; education; and economic policy.

Both Governments envisage that all decisions within the body would be by agreement between the two sides. The Heads of Department on each side would operate within the overall terms of reference mandated by legislation in the two sovereign Parliaments. They would exercise their powers in accordance with the rules for democratic authority and accountability for this function in force in the Oireachtas (the Irish Parliament) and in new institutions in Northern Ireland. The operation of the North-South body's functions would be subject to regular scrutiny in agreed political institutions in Northern Ireland and the Oireachtas respectively.

Both Governments expect that there would be a Parliamentary Forum, with representatives from agreed political institutions in Northern Ireland and members of the Oireachtas, to consider a wide range of matters of mutual interest.

Both Governments envisage that the framework would include administrative support staffed jointly by members of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and the Irish Civil Service. They also envisage that both administrations will need to arrange finance for the North-South body and its agencies on the basis that these constitute a necessary public function.

The remit of the body should be dynamic, enabling progressive extension by agreement of its functions to new areas. Its role should develop to keep pace with the growth of harmonisation and with greater integration between the two economies.

Both Governments envisage a new and more broadly-based Agreement, developing and extending their co-operation, reflecting the totality of relationships between the two islands, and dedicated to fostering co-operation, reconciliation and agreement in Ireland at all levels. They intend that under such a new Agreement a standing Intergovernmental Conference will be maintained, chaired by the designated Irish Minister and by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland. It would be supported by a Permanent Secretariat of civil servants from both Governments.

The Conference will be a forum through which the two Governments will work together in pursuance of their joint objectives of securing agreement and reconciliation amongst the people of the island of Ireland and of laying the foundations for a peaceful and harmonious future based

A collective effort is required to create, through agreement and reconciliation, a new beginning

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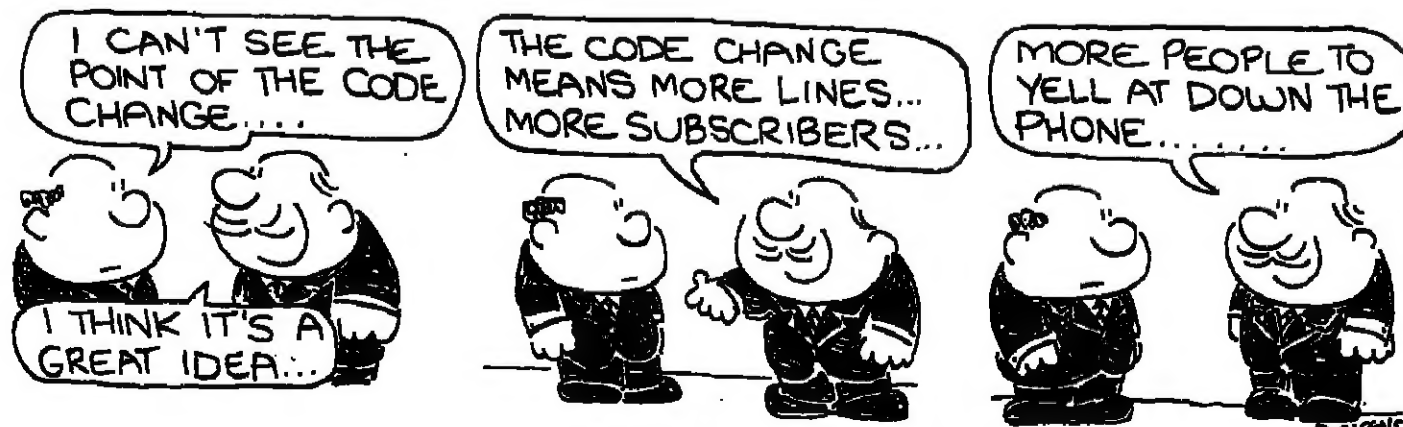
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Well-intentioned words are nothing without the ceasefire



Molyneux gave warning of lengthy negotiations ahead

FORGET the euphemisms of Anglo-Irish dialogue and the lengthily negotiated, well-meaning, though intentionally vague, phrases — all these are familiar from previous failed initiatives going back to the Sunningdale agreement of 1973. These words have been reformulated in yesterday's two documents. But they are not central to the outcome. The intricately constructed checks and balances, though an improvement on past proposals, are certain to be altered in the talks during the coming months.

What makes yesterday's announcement different is the ceasefire by the terrorist groups which has lasted nearly six

months. This has changed everyday life. It is the existence of relative peace that provides John Major with the chance to change the terms of the debate.

Past initiatives have floundered because discussion has focused on constitutional absolutes — the preservation of the Union versus nationalist aspirations, the two traditions as they are coyly described. These differences remain, as the predictable protests of some Unionists have shown.

Any attempt at a peaceful solution is bound to involve a compromise, even a fudging of these positions. There is inevitably an element of blue smoke and mirrors, to which the purists can

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

object. Dublin will give up its territorial claim. The difference about the latest attempt, compared with the Anglo-Irish agreement of 1985, is the emphasis upon consent. The triple locks of parties, people and Parliament. Mr Major can legitimately argue that, for the first time, the Irish Government, the Americans and the Roman Catholic Church have accepted that the consent of the people of Northern Ireland is central to any change in its constitutional position. Although the document repeats that the British Government has "no selfish strategic or economic

interest in Northern Ireland", Mr Major was careful yesterday to underline that he was a "Unionist" and not a persuader for a united Ireland.

Nothing will be superimposed. Apart from the various cross-border bodies, there will be a new, elected assembly as a bait to the Unionists. And the North-South bodies will be answerable to the assembly. Contrary to earlier fears, the Dublin Government cannot impose its views on Northern Ireland. These are important changes to previous plans. They will not satisfy either side com-

pletely, but they should enable both to work alongside each other.

For all the ingenuity of the balancing of the cross-border bodies with the new assembly, these changes would not in themselves make the chances of success better this time than in 1973-74 or 1985-86. The real hope for progress lies in the existence, rather than the prospect, of peace. Despite yesterday's sound and fury, negotiations could take a long time and stretch into the next Parliament, as James Molyneux said yesterday. There is no hint of a repeat of the mass resignation of Commons seats by the Unionists that followed the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Mr Major has skillfully manoeuv-

red all parties to the stage where there is a ceasefire and there is strong pressure on the Unionists, as well as on Sinn Féin, to keep talking. That reflects his patience and mastery of detail. He has also taken his party with him. There was no dissension in the Cabinet in its discussion a week ago, though some ministers did raise questions about the implications. There is enormous goodwill at Westminster for Mr Major's attempt, though apprehension about his chances of success. He was at his best yesterday, on top of his brief, clear, determined and convincing.

PETER RIDDELL

New body will be protected by system of checks to ensure both communities are treated fairly

Proposals improve local accountability in Ulster

By JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

PLANS for a new Northern Ireland Assembly with wide-ranging powers and responsibilities were unveiled by the Prime Minister yesterday.

The proposals, which are separate to the Joint Framework Document, aim to improve local accountability in Ulster. But the new body would have no tax-raising powers and would initially have no control over law and order or the Royal Ulster Constabulary. It would also be protected by a system of checks to ensure equal treatment of both communities.

The idea would be to recreate an assembly along the lines of Stormont, which was disbanded in 1973, to take over much of the day-to-day running of Northern Ireland affairs. It would also be responsible for conducting dialogue with the South and sending members to the proposed cross-border body.

The plans, which have been drawn up solely by the British Government, are being put forward alongside the Framework Document "as a basis for further negotiation involving the Northern Ireland parties, with the object of agreeing a comprehensive settlement". Launching the two documents in Belfast yesterday, Mr Major made clear that the assembly would be set up only as a

package involving agreement on new relationships between the North and South, between London and Dublin and between the parties internally. The assembly would have a vital part to play in managing and giving authority to new North-South institutions, he said.

Proposals for the new political institution in A Framework for Accountable Government in Northern Ireland include:

□ A single chamber 90-member assembly.

□ Fixed-term elections — four or five years — using proportional representation voting.

□ A separate panel of three elected representatives to monitor the assembly and ensure fair play.

□ A system of committees, constituted broadly in proportion to party strengths in the assembly, to oversee the work of Ulster departments.

The assembly would have legislative and executive responsibility over as wide a range of subjects as in 1973. It would be open to the Government to consider with the new institutions the scope for further legislative transfers but

certain functions, including matters relating to the Crown, foreign affairs and defence, would remain at Westminster.

However it would be subject to detailed checks and balances to reassure all parties. These might include powers for the new panel to nominate committee chairmen, to scrutinise and if necessary block legislation, and to arbitrate on public expenditure disputes. A code of practice would be set up to specify the relationships between the assembly, its committees, committee chairmen and departments.

Mechanisms would also be set up to ensure compliance with European Union and other international obligations. The assembly would include a number of departmental and non-departmental committees, made up of members of the assembly to reflect "an appropriate, fair and significant role for representatives of all traditions of Northern Ireland".

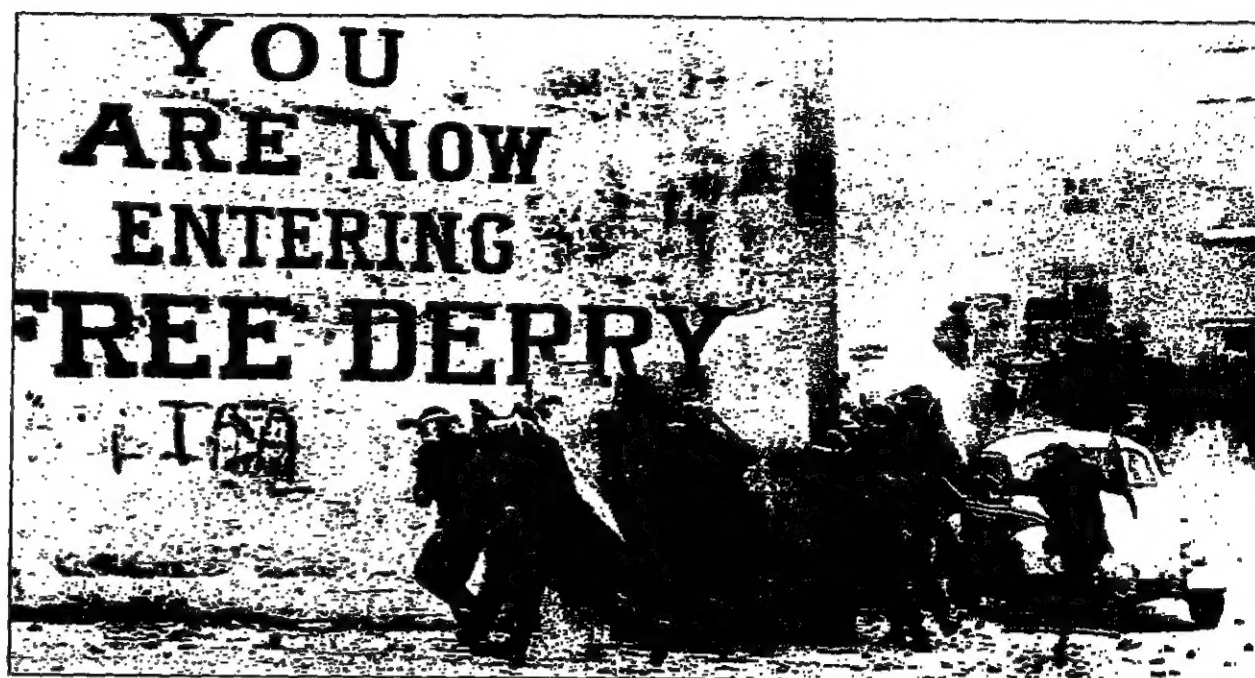
The chairmanships of assembly committees would be allocated by assembly, acting by weighted majority, and on the nomination of the panel, acting by consensus. Almost all legislation would require the support of at least a majority of both the relevant committee and the full assembly.

Contentious legislation, such as financial measures, could be done through weighted majority approval.

In future the relevant parties will have to consider the degree of discretion available to a local administration to allocate resources according to their own priorities. The document also proposes greater formal protection for civil, political and social rights, which would build on existing safeguards and be in line with constitutional arrangements in the United Kingdom.

The report suggests that in the longer term law and order could be transferred to the assembly. However it says the role of the new local institutions in policing and security matters would depend on the level of the terrorist threat. "So long as the threat is such that the active support of the armed services is necessary and emergency legislation is required, the Government's direct responsibility for these matters will continue," it says.

The paper goes into some detail about the role and make up of the proposed panel, which is one of the main checks and balances proposed. However Mr Major said yesterday that the panel was not a prerequisite for an agreed package.



Soldiers with riot shields taking cover from stone-throwing youths on the streets of Londonderry

Two hundred years of Irish turmoil

SOME significant dates in the history of Ireland:

1780: Grattan's parliament in Dublin threatens armed rebellion to support greater autonomy for Irish colony.
1798: Wolfe Tone's United Irishmen rising ends in defeat.
1801: Act of Union establishes the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland.
1886: Gladstone's Irish Home Rule Bill defeated.
1893: Second Home Rule Bill vetoed by House of Lords.
1914: Asquith's Home Rule Bill passed.
1916: Easter Rising in Dublin against British Rule.

HISTORY

1920: Government of Ireland Act partitions Ireland.
1921: George V opens Northern Ireland parliament.
1921: Anglo-Irish Treaty creates Irish Free State and triggers civil war in South.
1923: Civil war ends.
1937: De Valera's new constitution claims jurisdiction over North.
1939: IRA declares war on England. Bombing campaign begins.
1949: Ireland Act at Westminster formalises "loyalist veto". Unification possible only

with the consent of a majority in the North.

1969: British Army sent on to Belfast and Londonderry streets after serious sectarian rioting.
1971: Internment introduced.
1972: British troops kill 13 protesters on Bloody Sunday.
1972: Parliament at Stormont dissolved. Direct rule by Westminster imposed.
1973: Sunningdale agreement sets up power-sharing executive in Ulster.
1974: Loyalist strike brings down executive.
1975: Constitutional Convention set up to search for agreement on Ulster's future.

1976: Convention dissolved with no agreement.
1979: Government initiates inter-party talks at Stormont.
1981: Ten republican prisoners die on hunger strike.
1982: James Prior announces "rolling devolution". New Northern Ireland Assembly elected.
1985: Anglo-Irish Agreement signed by London and Dublin.
1986: Assembly dissolved.
1989: Government begins inconclusive inter-party talks.
1993: Joint Anglo-Irish Downing Street Declaration.
1994: IRA and Loyalist ceasefires.

Continued from facing page on mutual trust and understanding between them.

The Conference will provide a continuing institutional expression for the Irish Government's recognised concern and role in relation to Northern Ireland. The Irish Government will put forward views and proposals on issues falling within the ambit of the new Conference or involving both Governments, and determined efforts will be made to resolve any differences between the two Governments. The Conference will be the principal instrument for an intensification of the co-operation and partnership between both Governments, with particular reference to the principles contained in the Joint Declaration, in this Framework Document and in the new Agreement, on a wide range of issues concerned with the relations between the two parts of the island of Ireland.

Both Governments believe that there should also be provision in the Agreement for developing co-operation between the two Governments and both islands on a range of "East-West" issues and bilateral matters of mutual interest not covered by other specific arrangements, either through the Anglo-Irish Inter-governmental Council, the Conference or otherwise.

Both Governments accept that issues of law and order in Northern Ireland are closely intertwined with the issues of political consensus. For so long as these matters are not devolved, it will be for the Governments to consider ways in which a climate of peace, new institutions and the growth of political agreement may offer new possibilities for enhancing community identification with policing in Northern Ireland, while maintaining the most effective possible deployment of the resources of each Government in their common determination to combat crime and prevent any possible recourse to the use or threat of violence for political ends, from any source whatsoever.

The Inter-governmental Conference will be a forum for the two Governments jointly to keep under review the workings of the Agreement and to promote, support and underwrite the fair and effective operation of all its provisions and the new arrangements established under it.

THE FRAMEWORK DOCUMENT

Where either Government considers that any institution, established as part of the overall accommodation, is not properly functioning within the Agreement or that a breach of the Agreement has otherwise occurred, the Conference shall consider the matter on the basis of a shared commitment to arrive at a common position or, where that is not possible, to agree a procedure to resolve the difference between them. If the two Governments conclude that a breach has occurred in any of the above circumstances, either Government may make proposals for remedy and adequate measures to redress the situation shall be taken. However, each Government will be responsible for the implementation of such measures of redress within its own jurisdiction. There would be no derogation from the sovereignty of either Government; each will retain responsibility for the decisions and administration of government within its own jurisdiction.

In the event that devolved institutions in Northern Ireland ceased to operate, and direct rule from Westminster was reintroduced, the British Government agree that other arrangements would be made to implement the commitment to promote co-operation at all levels between the people, North and South, representing both traditions in Ireland, as agreed by the two Governments in the Joint Declaration, and to ensure that the co-operation that had been developed through the North-South body be maintained.

PROTECTION OF RIGHTS

There is a large body of support, transcending the political divide, for the comprehensive protection and guarantee of fundamental human rights. Acknowledging this, both Governments envisage that the arrangements set out in this Framework Document will be complemented and underpinned by an explicit undertaking in the Agree-

ment on the part of each Government, equally, to ensure in its jurisdiction in the island of Ireland, in accordance with its constitutional arrangements, the systematic and effective protection of common specified civil, political, social and cultural rights. They will seek agreement with the relevant political parties in Northern Ireland as to what rights should be so specified and how they might best be further protected, having regard to each Government's overall responsibilities including its international obligations. Each Government will introduce appropriate legislation in its jurisdiction to give effect to any such measure of agreement.

In addition, both Governments would encourage democratic representatives from both jurisdictions in Ireland to adopt a Charter or Covenant, which might reflect and endorse agreed measures for the protection of the fundamental rights of everyone in Ireland. It could also pledge a commitment to mutual respect and to the civil rights and religious liberties of both communities, including: the right of free political thought; the right to freedom of expression and religion; the right to pursue democratically national and political aspirations; the right to seek constitutional change by peaceful and legitimate means; the right to live wherever one chooses without hindrance; the right to equal opportunity in all social and economic activity, regardless of class, creed, gender or colour.

This Charter or Covenant might also contain a commitment to the principle of consent in the relationships between the two traditions in Ireland. It could incorporate also an enduring commitment on behalf of all the people of the island to guarantee and protect the rights, interests, ethos and dignity of the unionist community in any all-Ireland framework that might be developed with consent in the future, to at least the same extent as provided for the nationalist community in the context of Northern Ireland under the structures and provisions of the new Agreement.

The Covenant might also affirm on behalf of all traditions in Ireland a solemn commitment to the exclusively peaceful resolution of all dif-

ferences between them including in relation to all issues of self-determination, and a solemn repudiation of all recourse to violence between them for any political end or purpose.

CONCLUSION

Both Governments agree that the issues set out in this Framework Document should be examined in the most comprehensive attainable negotiations with democratically mandated political parties in Northern Ireland which abide exclusively by peaceful means and wish to join in dialogue on the way ahead.

Both Governments intend that the outcome of these negotiations will be submitted for democratic ratification through referendums, North and South. Both Governments believe that the present climate of peace, which owes much to the imagination, courage and steadfastness of all those who have suffered from violence, offers the best prospect for the Governments and the parties in Northern Ireland to work to secure agreement and consent to a new political accommodation.

With agreement, co-operation to the mutual benefit of all living in Ireland could develop without impediment, attaining its full potential for stimulating economic growth and prosperity. New arrangements could return power, authority and responsibility to locally-elected representatives in Northern Ireland on a basis acceptable to both sides of the community, enabling them to work together for the common welfare and interests of all the community. The diversity of identities and allegiances could be regarded by all as a source of mutual enrichment, rather than a threat to either side. The divisive issue of sovereignty might cease to be symbolic of the domination of one community over another. It would instead be for decision under agreed ground-rules, fair and balanced towards both aspirations, through a process of democratic persuasion governed by the principle of consent rather than by threat.

Accordingly, the British and Irish Governments offer for consideration and strongly recommend these proposals, trusting that, with generosity and goodwill, the peoples of these islands will build on them a new and lasting agreement.

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'It is obvious that he is in emotional turmoil after years of pressure'

Stephen Fry goes missing after three nights of new play

By ALEXANDRA FREAN

THE actor Stephen Fry has mysteriously pulled out of Simon Gray's new play *Cell Mates* for "personal reasons" three days after the production opened in the West End. Neither his agent nor the theatre know where he is.

Gray said last night that Fry, who was playing the spy George Blake, had written to him to express "his great distress at what he considered to be his failure as an actor". Gray said: "It is obvious that he is in emotional turmoil and that his sudden departure is the culmination of years of pressure, overwork and unremitting self-sacrificing generosity."

Cell Mates, showing at the Albery Theatre, tells the story of Blake's odd-couple relationship with Sean Bourke, a petty criminal, who sprang him from Wormwood Scrubs

prison. Fry, 37, appeared in only three performances last week. Christian Hodel, his agent, has no details of the actor's condition.

The actor's disappearance surprised Peter Faldon, manager of the Albery theatre, where *Cell Mates* is being staged. "I was told he was indisposed. I thought it was flu or something. He was fine last week and has not particularly appeared to be under stress," he said.

Reviews of the production, which co-stars Rik Mayall, have been kind but not gushing with praise. Mayall comes out as the better of the two actors by most critics' reckoning. Writing in *The Times*, Benedict Nightingale said that Fry's Blake was "a simpler slicker monster than Marx and nature surely produced". Mark Anderson, an under-

study, has filled in for Fry all this week, but Simon Ward, who starred in the film *Young Winston*, will take over the role as soon as possible.

In a statement, Gray praised Mayall for coping "so courageously with a crisis that is both personal and professional".

Fry, whose showbusiness career started with the Cambridge Footlights, is best known as the unflappable butler opposite his partner Hugh Laurie in the television series *Jeeves and Wooster*. He has also written novels including *The Liar* and appeared in films including *Peter's Friends*. He stars as an uptight professor opposite Meg Ryan and Walter Matthau in a comedy film, *IQ*, about Albert Einstein and his niece, opening next month. A friend of the actor's said



Stephen Fry, whose co-actor Rik Mayall received better reviews than him

last night that Fry, who has recently given a series of characteristically eloquent interviews to promote the play, was not prone to depression.

"He seemed to be on really good form last week but he has been under pressure from all sorts of things — writing, radio, television and working

solidly on this play. I should think it is a combination of all those things rather than the reviews of *Cell Mates*," he said.

Fry's last public appearance was on Sunday night, when he narrated *Peter And The Wolf* during a charity concert at St Mary's Church in north

London. Last night a member of the orchestra said Fry had played the role in a very low-key way. "He didn't mix with the rest of the orchestra and he didn't go to the party afterwards," she said.

"He sat down for the whole performance, which I thought was unusual for a narrator."

Britain is lashed by snow, rain and gales

By MARIANNE CURPHEY

BRITAIN was battered by severe gales, snow, hail, and electrical storms yesterday. Mid and West Wales and the Scottish hills were the worst affected areas. The River Derwent flooded in Cumbria after more than 2 inches of rain in 12 hours.

Dozens of trees were blown down and hazardous conditions on the roads led to scores of accidents. Speed limits were imposed in the south and west of England as sleet and thunderstorms made driving conditions dangerous on the M4 and other motorways.

Last night sleet storms moved down from Scotland to hit London and the South East.

About 1,500 skiers, many of them families on half-term holiday, were taken off the Cairngorms slopes after winds gusting to 80mph caused drifting snow to cut visibility to nil and kept temperatures well below freezing.

Snow ploughs had difficulty keeping open access roads near Aviemore and the Cairngorms Charitable Company decided to shut the link road to incoming traffic in the early afternoon.

Significant snowfalls were forecast for Scotland's five ski centres last night, although the forecast for today is sunny and breezy.

In Wales, the Cleddau road bridge near Milford Haven was closed by strong winds. Violent electrical storms hit South Wales and the south of England: lightning struck two HTV transmitters in the Mendips Hills in Somerset and 100 miles away at St Hilary, South Glamorgan, leaving thousands of homes without television pictures.

The rest of Britain was hit by winds gusting up to 70mph and gale warnings up to force nine were issued for all coastal areas.

The National Rivers Authority put out a red alert for the River Eden, which flooded at Appleby in Cumbria. Levels were also rising in the River Derwent in Cumbria and in the River Avon in Somerset.

The London Weather Centre said winds will drop today, with brighter, showery weather in the north and some sunny intervals in the south. Snow showers will continue over the hills in Scotland. The outlook is for continuing showers in the north and rain in the south.

Forecast, page 22

Seamen in Channel blockade

Thousands of passengers faced disruption as French seamen prepared to blockade ports and the Channel Tunnel at Calais for two days from midnight last night. About 100,000 people on the Dover-Calais crossing could be affected by union protests about a British cargo ferry that employs a Polish crew. Brittany Ferries has cancelled its sailings but P&O European Ferries and Stena Sealink said they would run a shuttle service to Zeebrugge if the port was blocked.

EU export hope

European Union farm ministers are close to reaching an agreement on limiting journey times for live farm animals, despite failing to agree at a two-day meeting that ended early on Wednesday, officials in Brussels said. A spokesman said it was felt "a conclusion can be found".

Player not guilty

Stan Collymore, 24, the Nottingham Forest footballer, of Cannock, Staffordshire, was cleared of assaulting two men outside a nightclub last summer. A jury at Stafford Crown Court accepted his account that he had acted in self-defence when he came to blows with the men.

TV show cleared

The television show *Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers* has been cleared by the Broadcasting Standards Council of allegations that it incited children to copy acts of karate-style violence. Primary school heads had complained that the show led to playground attacks.

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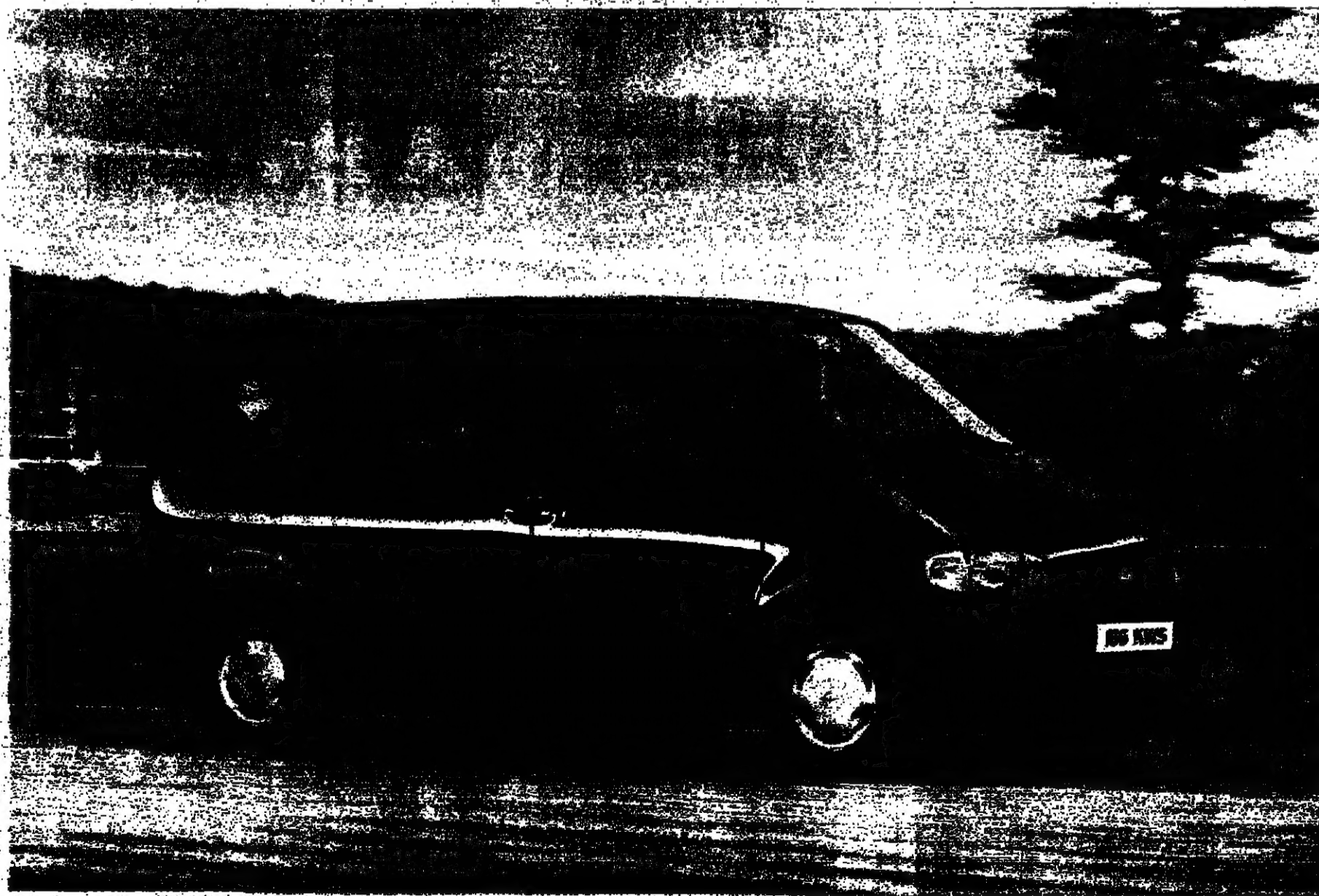
Superdrug has removed National Lottery machines from three of its 700 stores after customers complained of unacceptable delays while being forced to queue behind people whose only interest was in buying tickets. The company still has machines in eight outlets.

Ride committed

Paul Ride, who spent 18 months in a Baghdad jail, was sent for trial at the Old Bailey yesterday accused of arson. Mr Ride, 34, was remanded on bail by Walthamstow magistrates, east London, charged with arson and endangering life at his home in Walthamstow.

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Parents to sue after coroner hears that health checks were flawed

Children died of infection spread by hospital drip

By KATE ALDERSON

THE parents of two children who died from a blood infection they contracted after treatment for leukaemia plan to sue the hospital after a coroner's court recorded verdicts of accidental death yesterday.

Belinda Coffey, 5, and Timothy Davies, 9, had been recovering at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital when they were infected by the *enterobacter cloacae* bacteria. The one-day inquest at Salford Coroner's Court was told that the children caught the infection from intravenous feeding tubes prepared in the hospital's pharmacy.

The jury was told that drips were not replaced often enough, cleansing techniques could have been better and sterility tests on the liquid food and staff were not sufficient. The bacteria probably entered the pharmacy through a defective sink with faulty drains, the court heard. Swabs taken from the sink trap were found to be colonised with bacteria. Alternatively, germs could have been sucked into the room by the fan system.

Kenneth Ashley, a microbiologist with the Health and Safety Executive, who examined food drips being prepared at the hospital, told the hearing that two feeding tubes were infected with the *enterobacter cloacae* organism. At the end of the working day the piping was left intact until the next morning: "I felt this was significant because if an organism is introduced into the system accidentally then you have a chance for a growth phase," he said.

THE BACTERIUM

The *enterobacter cloacae* bacterium is found in the human bowel and also in nature, particularly in wet places. Kenneth Ashley, a microbiologist with the Health and Safety Executive, told the inquest: "It is not always easy to treat because it is fairly resistant to antibiotics." He said that it was "in the realms of speculation" how it had got into the drips used for the children.

He added that, in his view, weekly sterility checks on the food solutions were not sufficient. "That flaw was in the design of the system, where the kit was kept intact on a weekly basis."

The hospital has made a number of changes, including changing the pipework every day, since the bacteria outbreak last year. John Lockwood, clinical director of the hospital's pharmacy, told the court that using the feeding tubes for a whole week was "unacceptable" and tubes were now disposed of after separate procedure. He said there were no mandatory guidelines for the preparation of solutions at the time they were given to Belinda and Tim.

Tim was diagnosed as suffering from leukaemia in 1993 and underwent a bone marrow transplant in January 1994. Roy Davies, the boy's father, said his son died on April 20 last year after it was agreed his ventilator be switched off. "I was told Tim had been given a contaminated drip while in hospital and the circumstances had been reported to the coroner," Mr Davies said. "The hospital had accepted full responsibility for the equipment."

David Coffey, Belinda's



Tim Davies and Belinda Coffey, who died of septicaemia contracted while recovering from leukaemia at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital

father, from Disley, Cheshire, said his daughter developed a brain tumour in 1992, which was successfully treated. More than a year later she developed leukaemia and began a course of chemotherapy. "We were told the disease was in remission and Belinda was allowed home for short periods," Mr Coffey told the inquest.

On March 29 last year, she suffered sickness and diarrhoea and was readmitted to

Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. She died on April 16 after being transferred to the intensive care unit.

Stephanie Forman, solicitor for the Coffeys, said they had instructed her to continue proceedings against Salford and Trafford Health Authority. "Clearly they would wish the health authority to take a sensible view of liability now that the evidence shows conclusively that Belinda's food became infected because of

their lack of care," John Dewhurst, solicitor for Mr and Mrs Davies, said the couple agreed with the jury's findings that Tim did not die of natural causes and were considering legal action.

Salford and Trafford Health Authority issued a press statement on behalf of the children's hospital expressing their sympathies for the families. It stated that measures had been taken to ensure the incident could not occur again.

Neo-Nazi told to work unpaid with Pakistanis

By A STAFF REPORTER

A YOUNG Neo-Nazi who hates Jews and black people was ordered by a judge to work unpaid with ethnic minority groups yesterday.

David Draper, 22, a skin-head, became a convert to the "master race" theories at the age of eight from Second World War story books and made his bedroom a shrine to Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler.

Police who raided Draper's council flat in Billingham, Cleveland, found dozens of anti-Jewish and anti-black documents and stickers that were stamped "Master Copy" and "Keep for reprinting". His aim was to distribute them throughout the North East of England. Jeremy Richardson, for the prosecution, told Teeside Crown Court.

There were 20 copies of a leaflet depicting a Jew hanging from a gallows and stickers that said: "Warning, nine out of ten niggers are polluted by Aids."

Other stickers showed a human skull and a gas canister with the slogan "Zyklon-B, over six million satisfied customers". Some of the leaflets were published by New Order, the American Nazi group, in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Draper was found guilty of nine charges under the 1986 Public Order Act of possessing racially inflammatory material that was intended to stir up

racial hatred. He was cleared on another six charges and the jury was discharged from giving a verdict on one other.

Mr Justice Holland told Draper that if he jailed him he would become a martyr for his followers. Instead the judge ordered him to do 180 hours community service in a year. He said: "The purpose of the order is to enable you to put something into the community and not make hatred your contribution."

Eric Goldby, a probation officer, suggested in a report that Draper could be put to work among the area's large Pakistani population.

PC Stuart Smith who arrested him in 1992, said that Draper told him: "A lot of people agree with what's on them stickers. You can't silence them all." Draper refused in court to identify the man who supplied the stickers. He told the jury: "I agree with all the views expressed in the documents that are in court. It's supposed to be a free country."

Andrew Robertson, for the defence, told the judge: "He confirms today that he stands by his views. His reaction to being forced to work with an ethnic group was that he would not wish to do it but he would do so because he values his freedom. It may be that if he does that work he may see how misguided he has been."

Boy, 13, convicted of raping girl is cleared on appeal

By RICHARD DUCE

A SCHOOLBOY convicted three months ago as Britain's youngest rapist was yesterday cleared on appeal. The court ruled that it was not satisfied that the alleged 14-year-old victim did not consent to sex although the boy, then 13, later confessed to police she twice told him "No".

The girl's father said after the appeal at Manchester Crown Court: "After this, one can understand why women are so hesitant about coming forward in rape cases. In our eyes he is guilty of rape no matter what the court says."

Upholding the appeal Mr Justice McCullough, sitting with two magistrates, said the prosecution had not sought to rely alone on what the boy told police but as support for the girl's claim. "There is no other evidence which would be capable of providing corroboration of the fact of non-consent and the case depends on the

view taken of the complainant's credibility," he said. "But that is not to hold that she did consent."

David Steer, QC, for the defence, claimed the girl had been an accomplished liar and made up the rape allegation to explain why she was two hours late in getting home. At first she had claimed she was attacked by three youths three miles away from the park in Manchester where she later claimed she had been raped by the boy last February.

Paul Reid, for the Crown, said the boy had later confessed the girl had refused to have sex. "The defendant was aware that she was not consenting to sex but he pressed on regardless," he said.

The boy's mother said after the hearing: "We hope things can get back to normal at home and at school. He has never been named but everyone knew it was him."

Whisky schoolboy airlifted from ferry

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

A SCHOOLBOY who drank a litre of whisky had to be airlifted to hospital by RAF helicopter from a North Sea ferry in an operation costing £8,000.

Steven Purves, 15, who has an English father and a French mother and lives in Paris, was sailing from Zeebrugge to Hull on a 14-hour crossing when he was found collapsed in a corner of the lounge on the ferry *Norstar*. A junior doctor who examined him said he needed immediate treatment in hospital.

Coastguards were alerted and a Sea King helicopter from RAF Wattisham in Suffolk made a rendezvous with the North Sea Ferries ship 25 miles east of Felixstowe. Steven was winched on board the helicopter on a stretcher together with a woman teacher from his school in Paris who was accompanying a party on an exchange visit with a school in York.

The boy, whose condition improved when he vomited before the flight, was flown to the James Paget Hospital, Great Yarmouth, and released with a rebuke from doctors after an hour.

A helicopter crewman asked Steven: "Did you enjoy the whisky?" He replied: "No. I'll never touch it again."

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Failure to carry out checks leaves legal aid open to abuse

By Frances Gibb, Legal Correspondent

MILLIONS of pounds in legal aid is still being granted to defendants in criminal cases without any checks on whether they qualify for public funds, the National Audit Office said yesterday.

More than a third of people applying for criminal legal aid, which totalled £432 million in 1993-94, did not produce documentary evidence of their earnings, the report found. It says the lack of controls on the granting of criminal legal aid is widespread despite regulations brought in by the Lord Chancellor's Department in 1993 to curb abuse.

As a result, Sir John Bourn, Comptroller and Auditor General, qualified his audit opinion on the legal aid account for the fourth year running. This means that he refused to grant an audit certificate, approving the account, because he could not be satisfied that it gave a true picture.

Sir John previously quali-

fied his audit opinions "on the grounds of significant and material uncertainty as to the propriety and regularity of expenditure on criminal legal aid".

According to the latest report, lack of controls and abuse are still rife. The NAO found that justices' clerks, who handle the granting of criminal legal aid, "do not always comply with the regulations by pursuing applicants for relevant evidence". Documentary evidence was provided for only 6 per cent of income other than wages, such as state benefits, or spending, such as housing costs, listed on application forms. Where documents were supplied, they "did not always support the figures in the statement of means, and, at some courts, there was no detailed check of the evidence against the application details".

The Commons' Public Accounts Committee report on fraud in 1992-93 said that the

two main risks of legal aid fraud and abuse arose from clients understating their means and solicitors making false or exaggerated claims for attendance, preparation, waiting and travel time.

For the first time the Audit Office's annual report also gives details of inquiries by the Legal Aid Board into suspected fraud by solicitors. At July 1 last year the board was investigating 80 firms and payments had been suspended to 15 firms.

The Legal Aid Board is undertaking more measures to curb abuse, including a new form requiring more information data than at present about individual claims and computerised bills to enable patterns of claiming by firms to be monitored.

Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General HC 100-VII, National Audit Office (Buckingham Palace Road, London SW1W 9SP)



Andrew Wilson, recovering from hypothermia, with his wife Marion in hospital

Skier lost during blizzard suffers from 'yuppie flu'

By Gillian Bowditch, Scotland Correspondent

THE skier who survived three nights of blizzards in the Grampian mountains with only a Mars bar to eat suffers from a mild form of the energy-sapping condition ME.

Andrew Wilson, 44, said from his bed in Ninewells Hospital, Dundee, yesterday that he swam and cycled but the myalgic encephalomyelitis - "yuppie flu" - which causes chronic fatigue and muscle pain, prevented him from becoming as fit as he wanted, although his condition improved in the cold.

Mr Wilson, a cashier with a firm of plumbers, crawled off Cairn of Claise, near Glenishee, at 10.30am on Monday, collapsing into the arms of rescuers a mile from the Glenishee Ski Centre.

He said he had been "a bit afraid" of dying, adding: "I did my best to make my peace with God."

Mr Wilson said his equipment, including a Gore-Tex bivouac bag, jacket and trousers, together with his knowledge of what to do to survive,

had saved his life. He had had no survival training and had never spent a night on the mountains, although he had read the manuals.

He said he split up from his skiing companion, Robert McNeil, on Saturday morning when they decided to ski different routes. He was testing out a new pair of cross-country skis with skins attached to the soles which allowed him to ski slowly downhill in a straight line and keep to a bearing. His problems started when a skin came off one of his skis and he was forced to zig-zag down the mountain.

Mr Wilson, who holds the record for a civilian surviving in the Scottish mountains in winter, said he did so because he believed he could get out. "I had the right equipment and knew what to do."

Doctors at Ninewells Hospital said they were amazed at how well he was, but Mr Wilson said he was surprised at how bad he felt. "I'm tired and exhausted and stiff all over."

Blood test offers hope of cure for arthritis

By Jeremy Laurance, Health Services Correspondent

BRITISH researchers have developed a blood test that can predict the progress of a crippling joint disease that affects more than five million people in the United Kingdom. The discovery - which scientists hope will lead to a cure - will help doctors to identify who will suffer the disease.

In the world's largest study of osteoarthritis, researchers from Bristol Royal Infirmary have found higher than normal levels of protein in the blood of sufferers in whom the disease progresses fastest.

The finding confirms that the condition is caused by an active disease process and is not the result of the normal wear and tear associated with ageing, as had been thought. It will bring hope of a cure to millions of sufferers.

Professor Paul Dieppe, leader of the research team, said yesterday: "We don't have a way of switching off the disease and that's what we want to find. This test has put us on the track of a treatment. It is a step on the way. I think we will have a treatment in the future." Osteoarthritis is over six times more common than

rheumatoid arthritis but existing treatments are of little help. It mostly affects the elderly but can strike people in their twenties. The disease is diagnosed by X-ray, showing the degeneration of the joints, but until now there has been no way of identifying the quarter of sufferers who have the progressive form of the disease, leading to increasing stiffness and immobility.

Professor Dieppe said that because the disease was slow to evolve, progress to a treatment would be slow. "When we get to a treatment it will take several years to test it," he said. The team's findings, to be published shortly in two medical journals, are based on a 10-year study of 500 patients with osteoarthritis, which was funded largely by the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council for Research.

Professor Dieppe outlined the findings during a visit to his unit by Pat Froomberg, a sufferer from osteoarthritis for 20 years who has had eight joint replacement operations. Despite her condition, Mrs Froomberg has raised over £200,000 for the Arthritis and Rheumatism Council.



In the days of his battles with Robin Hood, the sheriff was responsible for enforcing law and order

Nottingham fails to find a sheriff

THE post of Sheriff of Nottingham is to go unfilled for the first time in more than 800 years because no one eligible for the office will accept it.

Four members of the Labour majority on Nottingham City Council, which makes the annual choice, refused to be nominated, and no volunteers could be found among the remaining 37 Labour councillors. For the first time since its inception in the 12th century, the honorary post will fall vacant when the present Sheriff, Ron McIntosh, retires in May.

One councillor turned down the title on the ground of ill health, another because the Sheriff is not allowed to take part in political activity during the year of office. The third said she was flattered but unable to accept because of work commitments. The fourth councillor nominated gave no reason.

Tony Robinson, a Labour councillor who has twice held the ancient office, said: "I am disappointed over the lack of interest by the Labour Party

members. People are scared off because the position involves a lot of commitment and hard work."

Ted Hickey, spokesman for the minority Conservatives councillors, who are not allowed to nominate a candidate, said: "There are plenty of experienced members on the Conservative group who would be delighted to do it with pride and dignity. Robin Hood must be laughing all the way to Sherwood Forest."

The legendary English outlaw and champion of the poor has gone down in history as the Sheriff of Nottingham's chief tormentor, constantly outwitting him with his sorties from Sherwood Forest. He is said to have lived in the reign of Richard I and helped to raise the ransom for the king's return from his crusades in the Holy Land - largely at the expense of the Sheriff.

As the Sheriff is no longer responsible for maintaining law and order, the council is confident the unfilled office will not herald a return to the days of banditry in the forest.

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THE WELSH ADVANTAGE.

First overhaul of taxi trade since 1847

Norris plans tough new controls for minicabs

By JONATHAN PRYNN
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of unlicensed minicab drivers in London are to be subject to proposed tough controls aimed at driving dangerous "cowboy" operators out of business, the Government announced yesterday.

Steve Norris, the minister responsible for transport in the capital, said that all London minicab drivers would be subject to vehicle safety checks and may be required to pass a "knowledge" test before being granted a licence. Drivers with a serious criminal conviction will be banned from operating a minicab.

Between 40,000 and 100,000 minicabs and their drivers work the London market in competition with the 18,000 black cabs. The London taxi trade is estimated to be worth more than £1 billion a year. Unlike minicabs in the rest of Britain London drivers are subject to no controls beyond



Norris: strict controls for £1bn taxi business

those applying to ordinary drivers.

Mr Norris said the Government's proposals would stop drivers who could leave prison after serving a long sentence for rape or murder and set up as a minicab driver, driving vulnerable people quite legally on the same day.

It is claimed that about one

in four rapes by strangers take place in minicabs and there have been numerous assaults, sometimes by convicted violent criminals who have set up in business.

However, the Government stopped short of defining which crimes would bar a driver from operating a minicab, leaving local licensing authorities to interpret broad guidelines.

Mr Norris insisted that the exclusive right of black cabs to ply for hire on the streets of London, a privilege valued at £600 million a year, would be maintained. Minicabs will still have to be booked in advance and it will remain illegal to hire one on the street.

The proposals, which are unlikely to come into effect for at least two years, came in the Government's response to last summer's Transport Select Committee's report on the taxi and private hire vehicle trade. It implemented they would represent the first overhaul of the rules governing the taxi trade in Britain since 1847.

They also include new requirements to make it easier for disabled people to travel by taxi.

The Department of Transport will consult with the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee to design taxis with better access for wheelchairs.

"Building upon our experience in London we intend to make travel by taxi much easier for people with disabilities, including wheelchair users, and to introduce measures to make London minicabs safer for vulnerable users," Mr Norris said. Every London taxi will have to have a ramp for wheelchairs by 2000.

Michael Meacher, the Shadow Transport Secretary, said the proposed rules were unenforceable and would "drive a very large number of unlicensed drivers on to the black market".

He also condemned the absence of rules on training of minicab drivers and the fares they charge in the Government's proposals.



Sir Nicholas's coffin is piped into the chapel of Fordell Castle. Fife, the home that he restored from a ruin.

Fairbairn laid to rest in his Scots crypt

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

SIR NICHOLAS FAIRBAIRN, the flamboyant MP for Perth & Kinross, was buried in the candlelit crypt of his Scottish castle yesterday as a lone piper played his regimental march.

As his coffin was taken into the 17th century chapel of Fordell Castle, Fife, the piper played *Cock O' The North*, the regimental march of the Gordon High-

landers, and Sir Nicholas's Irish wolfhounds set up a mournful howl. Sir Nicholas, who had been ill for some time with liver disease, planned the ceremony which he told friends was to be "a celebration". The former Solicitor General for Scotland, who despised organised religion but believed in God, told his family: "I want no nonsense about 'Death where is thy sting'".

About a hundred friends and family

packed the crypt in the castle that Sir Nicholas had lovingly restored from a ruin. The service was conducted by Rev David Ogston, Minister of St John's Church in Perth, where a memorial service for Sir Nicholas is to be held on March 3.

Among the mourners were Michael Forsyth, the Home Office Minister, and the Tory MPs Sir Nicholas Bonsor and Richard Shepherd.

Academics urge foreign boycott of Oxbridge club

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SENIOR Oxbridge academics are lobbying overseas clubs to cut their links with the United Oxford and Cambridge University Club in protest at its refusal to treat women equally.

American graduate clubs such as the Harvard and the Princeton in New York and the Cosmos in Washington are being approached by heads of colleges. They want them to withdraw reciprocal arrangements that allow members of the United Club in Pall Mall, London, to stay at prestigious affiliates abroad.

All but four of the 73 heads of Oxbridge colleges announced their resignation from the club en masse on Tuesday in protest at its refusal to allow women full membership and use of the library and the members' bar.

Robert Stevens, Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, said a number of senior academics were taking up the issue of the Oxford and Cambridge's discriminatory membership policy with clubs abroad. He said: "The vast majority of American clubs admit women. It seems odd that they still have arrangements with the Oxford and Cambridge when they went

through similar discussions about women's membership decades ago. They ought to consider cancelling affiliation arrangements," he said.

The Oxford and Cambridge club regards such relations as an important benefit to members and boasts in advertisements that it allows access to "more than 100 first-class clubs overseas and in the UK".

Campaigners who have fought for change within the club now believe change may best be achieved by protests that reduce the benefits of membership and hurt it financially. One member said yesterday: "Finances have already been affected and the dining room is virtually empty on some evenings."

Others, however, argue that the controversy has raised the club's profile and attracted new members.

Carol Danko, administrative manager of the Harvard Club of New York, which has admitted women since 1974, said it had not received any complaints from female members about their treatment when they stayed at the Oxford and Cambridge: "Everyone always says how nice everyone is to them over there."

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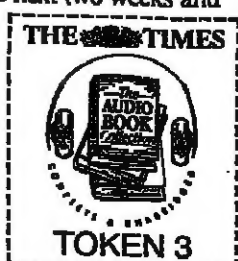
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Spy scandal revives dormant antagonisms between French and American security services

Balladur moves to limit damage over expelled US envoys

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS AND MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

PARIS admitted yesterday that five Americans, including four diplomats, are being expelled from France as spies.

Last night an embarrassed Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister, was trying to limit the potential damage of the affair. "This sort of thing happens regularly on one side or other of the Atlantic," he said. "The French people are friends of the American people." He is aware, however, that this "friendship" will be placed under considerable strain by the revelations in yesterday's *Le Monde*. One of his aides said the matter should have been handled with greater discretion than a leak in the newspaper.

Last night, the French Interior and Foreign Ministries issued a statement saying that "several" Americans, including diplomatic staff, had been asked to leave France because they had engaged in activities incompatible with their status — the diplomatic formula for saying they were spies.

According to *Le Monde*, France's counter-espionage service, the Direction de la Surveillance du Territoire, has identified five Americans, four of them diplomats working at the US Embassy in Paris, as CIA agents. Of these, one is a counsellor, two are first secretaries and the fourth is a second secretary. The fifth person was "attached to the embassy", but did not have diplomatic immunity.

In Washington, an American official said he believed that the French Government was trying to divert attention from the phone-tapping scandal threatening M. Balladur's presidential hopes. "Balladur has just taken a big hit. This

might be a kind of diversion or something to that effect to bring him back into favour," he said. "These guys did get set up to a certain extent." The official also insisted that the French were just as guilty of industrial espionage as the Americans, and would not rule out retaliatory expulsions by Washington.

"There have been a number of instances from 1940 till now where we have identified French government officials working at interesting levels [in US corporations]," he said. "It's not a new game. It happens on both sides."

He cited the case of a French national dismissed from the US Embassy in Paris for espionage in the early 1990s, and instances of American businessmen travelling in France having their rooms bugged or rifled. In 1993 the CIA was anonymously sent a 21-page study giving details of

a campaign by the Direction Générale de la Sécurité Extérieure (DGSE), the CIA's French counterpart, to steal secrets from 49 American corporations engaged primarily in the defence and aeronautics fields, 24 US financial institutions, and six federal government departments.

In 1991, a former head of the French secret services said the DGSE had, since 1981, been placing secret microphones beneath first-class and club-class seats on Air France aircraft to eavesdrop on American businessmen.

US and French intelligence chiefs signed an agreement in 1988 not to steal each other's commercial secrets, but both sides appear to have disregarded it. France believes that the seven expelled Americans, as well as engaging in economic espionage, have also mounted political operations involving the audio-visual and telecommunications sectors. A confidential dossier leaked to *Le Monde* says at least three French officials approached by the American "agents" agreed to play along with the requests for information in the hope of "trapping" the CIA.

One of the targets was a member of M. Balladur's Cabinet, who was asked to provide details of France's position on the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade negotiations that were a subject of tension between the two countries in 1993. The second, who worked for Alain Carignon, a former minister of state, was charged with supplying documents on audio-visual issues. The third worked for France Telecom.

According to *Le Monde*, there are about 80 members of the American secret services



Edouard Balladur addresses the Diplomatic Press Association in Paris yesterday

working in France, including 30 "clandestines", whose activities have "supplanted" those of the old KGB. The newspaper says Pamela Harriman, America's Ambassador to Paris, was told to remove the five remaining "agents" in January, a verbal request that was followed this month by two letters from Charles Pasqua, the French Interior Minister. In a separate letter to President Mitterrand, M. Pasqua said: "I have let it be known [to

the ambassador] in the firmest manner that these intrigues cannot be tolerated." Last night, Mrs Harriman was seen entering M. Balladur's official residence, probably wanting to know how the affair came to the notice of *Le Monde*.

There was speculation in the French media that the leaks were retaliation two years after the CIA accused France of widespread industrial espionage. The claims that French

intelligence services had broken into hotel rooms in America, stolen documents and approached US businessmen provoked outrage in Paris but prompted American defence firms to boycott the 1993 Paris air show.

Last night a source close to M. Balladur said: "There is no Franco-American crisis, and these diplomats are still on French soil."

Letters, page 17

How de Gaulle set the seal on years of mutual suspicion

BY ADAM SAGE

THE mistrust and suspicion that poisons relations between France and the United States predates General de Gaulle, just as it has outlasted him. But it was during his presidency in the 1960s that hostility between the two reached its height.

"In the nuclear field, we have had the right to nothing from the Americans, except piddles," he told his Cabinet in January 1963, adding: "Since the Second World War, American expansionism has become irresistible. That's why it must be resisted."

Three years later, he put his theory into practice, provoking the greatest Franco-American crisis since 1945 by withdrawing from Nato's command structure.

His claim that this was the only way of preserving France's independence went down well at home, but was seen as a provocation by a US Administration concerned to preserve the West's unity in the face of the Soviet threat.

Over the next 15 years, Presidents on both sides of the Atlantic tried to smooth over the difficulties, although they never succeeded entirely.

For Washington, France was an untrustworthy partner, capable of selling out Western interests to the Soviet Union. For Paris, US policies were designed to hide American expansionism behind the banner of the fight against communism.

The arrival in 1981 of President Mitterrand in the Elysée Palace, and with him, Communists in the French Government, fuelled these tensions. In 1982, Jack Lang, the Culture Minister, refused to attend an American film festival, evoking the need to oppose what he said was a US cultural invasion.

As France's Socialists shed their left-wing veneer, relations

ceased to the point where M. Lang felt able to award a medal to Sylvester Stallone, the star of *Rambo*.

But as ever in Franco-American history, calm did not last for long. In 1993, the CIA publicly warned the US defence industry that it was a target for French economic espionage. Equally publicly, these defence firms pulled out of the Paris air show that year, prompting furious denials by Paris.

Almost immediately, the wrangles over the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade started to dominate the news. In the end, Edouard Balladur's centre-right Government claimed victory, asserting that Washington had made important concessions in two key areas: agriculture and culture.

Since then, however, it has become clear that America has no intention of giving up in the cultural dispute. French insistence on the right to subsidise the European film industry and impose quotas on television programmes are the subject of continued attacks from across the Atlantic. Last week, at a European Union meeting in Bordeaux, it was apparent that France was virtually isolated on this issue.

France remains attached to a belief in its own grandeur and hostile to the one country that shakes this belief, America. If most commentators accept that economic competition adds to this hostility, many say its roots are deeper and more complex. As the magazine, *L'Événement du Jeudi*, said in 1992 of the values that inspired the French Revolution — liberty, equality and fraternity — only the first would have been fully accepted by America's pioneers, and the second would have been anathema to them.

Congress seeks rescue plan for bankrupt Washington

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

A GROWING crisis over mismanagement by the city of Washington came to head yesterday with a damning report to Congress that the American capital is insolvent.

Washington had cash in hand only because it was not paying bills for hundreds of millions of dollars, said the General Accounting Office, an arm of Congress equivalent to the National Audit Office in Britain. John Hill, an accounting office official, said Washington would run out of cash this summer. At its present rate of spending, the city would overspend this year's budget by 22 per cent, a deficit of \$722 million (£456 million).

The grim financial news was presented at a hearing by two committees of Congress which, under the Constitution, has final authority over the ten square miles of the District of Columbia. At issue was if and how Congress can rescue Washington from its immedi-

ate crisis and how it will treat the city in future.

Swift action could come from Newt Gingrich, House Speaker, who outlined an emergency programme of help. His plan would repeal some taxes, create enterprise zones, lift rent controls and offer school vouchers to give parents more choice. The plan would take away some of Washington's home rule and require an independent board to exercise control, similar to the bail-out in New York City's financial crisis 20 years ago.

Mr Gingrich wants Washington, a black-majority city, to be "the best capital in the world", rather than a bankrupt shambles offering possibly the worst municipal services in America, with corrupt police, crumbling public housing and Third World rates of infant mortality.

Marion Barry, Mayor of Washington since 1978 except for a four-year break after he

went to prison for smoking crack cocaine, was summoned to give evidence yesterday. He faced tough questioning from committee members who were told that the city continues to propose solutions that do not exist and to claim savings that will never be realised.

Mr Barry is blamed for many of the city's woes and its bloated payroll. Indeed, the committee heard that nobody is sure exactly how many municipal employees there are. Mr Barry's office said "approximately 33,000". Reacting to the emergency, the city council voted to cut 1,200 jobs and to reduce workers' wages by 12 per cent.

In the meantime, many small businesses are teetering on the brink of bankruptcy because bills sent to the city go unpaid for months. In one case, a repair garage refused to return the White House fire engine until the city settled its account in full.



Gingrich: said aid to Moscow should be cut

America to press Russia on reactors

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Clinton Administration will press Russia today for big concessions to repair Washington's strained relations with Moscow.

The Administration is using a two-day visit by Georgi Mamedov, a Deputy Foreign Minister, that began yesterday, to repeat its demand that Russia must abandon its plan to sell nuclear reactors to Iran. Newt Gingrich, the House Speaker, said that America should cut off all aid to Russia if the sale goes ahead.

Strobe Talbott, Deputy Secretary of State, was planning to give Mr Mamedov a letter from President Clinton pressing Russia to join the Partnership for Peace, which provides closer links to Nato for former Warsaw Pact nations. Moscow will be offered a special relationship with the Western alliance.

Mr Talbott and other American officials were repeating demands that Russia should resolve the conflict in Chechnya peacefully: it is the single biggest cause of the recent sharp deterioration in relations. If the fighting is not ended quickly, Mr Clinton may refuse to attend ceremonies in Moscow in May marking the 50th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazi Germany.

American officials also planned to tell Mr Mamedov that Russia should abandon its efforts to sell nuclear reactors to North Korea. Pyongyang has objected to receiving reactors from South Korea, under its recent agreement with Washington to end its nuclear weapons programme, and the Administration fears that Moscow's interference is giving North Korea a further pretext for stalling.

Mother throws sons off bridge

FROM GILES WHITTILL IN LOS ANGELES

A DEPRESSED mother chose her husband's birthday to throw her two young sons, and then herself, from a 50ft bridge into the Los Angeles River.

A 22-month-old baby drowned in the incident on Tuesday. His three-year-old brother was fighting for life yesterday on a hospital ventilator. Donna Fleming, 24, their mother, who neighbours say was a victim of wife abuse, was also rescued and faces murder charges.

Distraught witnesses shouted at Mrs Fleming, 24, to save her children as they floated face downwards. A passing motorist threw his surfboard to her and then jumped in himself. Two policemen also tried to resuscitate the toddlers while still in the water.

Her 37-year-old husband was convicted of wife abuse twice last year. The incident was the first in weeks to squeeze the O. J. Simpson trial from the top of southern California's evening news.

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Bonn union threatens shutdown of car plants

FROM ROGER BOYES IN BONN

GERMANY'S most powerful trade union, IG Metall, declared itself yesterday ready to bring car factories, steel foundries and arms plants to a halt in what could become the country's most devastating strike in 11 years.

More than 88 per cent of the balloted union members in Bavaria, the pilot region for the rest of Germany, voted in favour of strikes. "The game-playing is over," said Werner Neugebauer, the IG Metall regional chief. "The employers want to force us back to the Stone Age in terms of wages and social conditions."

The first strikes are likely to come tomorrow in 35 factories in Bavaria: over the coming week, BMW, Siemens and Daimler Aerospace are likely to become targets of industrial action. Union leaders hope that this gesture will force employers to the negotiating table to discuss a 6 per cent wage rise without having to embark on a broader strike.

The employers have yet to make an offer, saying that the workers must first agree to the principle and practice of flexible working hours to boost productivity. That stance has earned unusual criticism from the ruling Christian Democrats, usually supportive of the employers. Kurt Biedenkopf, the Christian Democrat Prime Minister of Saxony, said yesterday: "The fact that the employers have still not put an offer on the table has been broadly criticised."

There is a theatrical element to the annual German wage rounds and most employers seem ready to ride out a fortnight of scattered industrial action as part of the bargaining process. Economic analysts predict that both sides will settle, after some more brinkmanship, at rises of 2 to 3 per cent and a union commitment to accept more flexible shifts. Nevertheless, there is a possibility that the wage round could veer out of control. The employers are

acting as if they want to dig in their heels. They had been due to discuss today how and when to implement the counter-weapon of locking out workers. But the talks have been postponed until next week, opening the possibility of a negotiating breakthrough at the weekend.

Gerd Loboda, the IG Metall chief in Nuremberg, said yesterday that any attempt to lock out workers would worsen the conflict. "If employers embark on long lock-outs, then nobody should be surprised if people start to throw up barricades on autobahns or block railway lines," he said. "A broad lock-out would lead to an unprecedented radicalisation in Germany that would change the face of the whole republic."

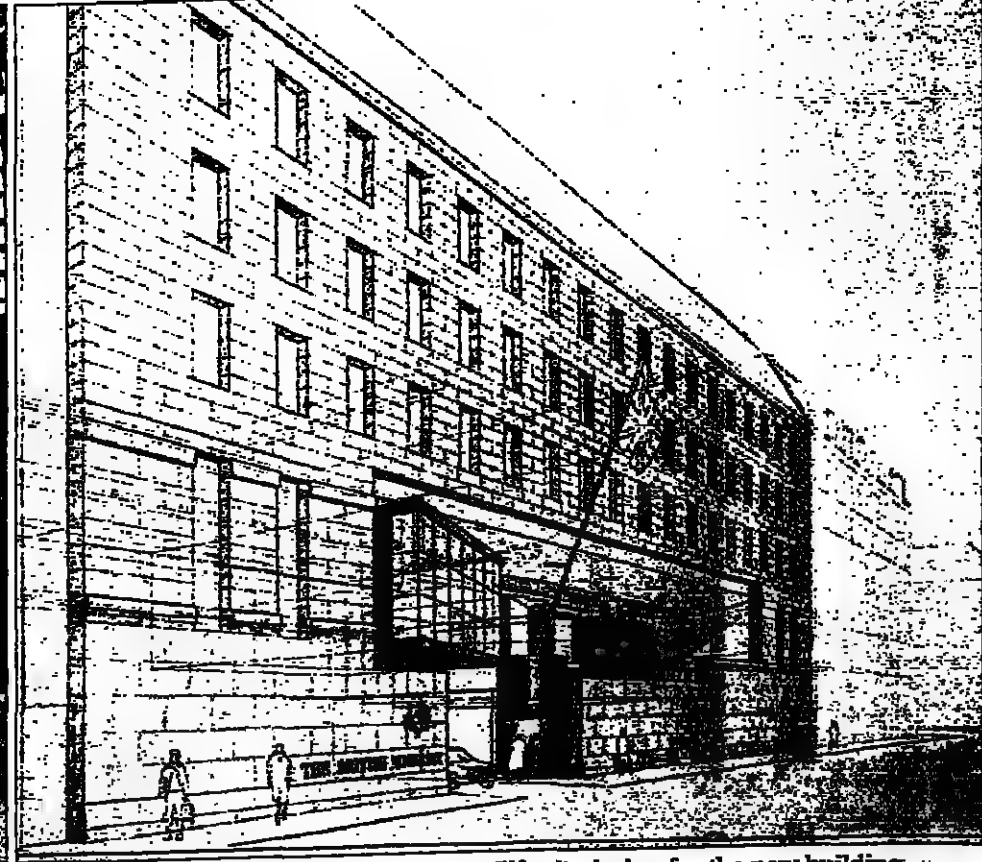
Lock-outs at Audi or BMW would paralyse the many component factories dependent on the car makers and "thousands of workers would lose their income: nobody is prepared to accept that", Herr Loboda said that the union had a full strike fund.

Any IG Metall settlement is likely to set the tone of the wage deals in other industries. Employers argue that many engineering companies are still reeling from the effects of the 1992-93 recession. They want the union to take into account the cost effects of a planned cut in the working week. The reduction in working hours to 35 from 36 in October will increase company costs by 2.8 per cent, according to employers' calculations. Fortunately perhaps for the employers, the first week of the strike would fall during the carnival season when little factory work is done.

So far German economists have not adjusted their expectations for this year. The German Chamber of Commerce stuck yesterday to its earlier forecast of 3 per cent growth for Germany this year and a 2 per cent inflation rate.



The old British Embassy in Berlin, left, destroyed by allied bombers during the Second World War and, right, Michael Wilford's design for the new building



Britain returns to Berlin

BY ROGER BOYES

A SHORT stroll from the former site of Hitler's bunker, at the centre of Prussian and Nazi power, is a patch of Berlin mud that will soon be the site of the new British Embassy in Germany.

A team of British architects was selected yesterday to build the embassy in Wilhelmstrasse, and the intention is to be ready by the time that the German Government transfers from Bonn in 1998-99. The original embassy was the palace of a railway magnate, Bethel Henry Strausberg, completed by the fashionable architect August Orth in 1868. When Strausberg lost his money, the vast house with Corinthian pillars was bought by the British Government in 1894.

The Treasury insisted that the large landscaped garden, complete with carp pond, be sold to help to cover the costs. The glamorous Adlon Hotel was built on the embassy lawn. This had the advantage of providing diplomats with a restaurant and café to meet their contacts in the Foreign Ministry, which was a little further down Wilhelmstrasse.

At least one British Embassy secretary was wooed by a Prussian aristocrat in the Adlon café. But the hotel's cooking smells would wait

next door and Sir Neville Henderson, the last Berlin-based British Ambassador, described the embassy in 1938 as being "cramped, dirty and dark". The main problem was that the palace had to serve a dual function as ambassadorial residence and embassy.

British bombers flattened the embassy during the war, along with most of Wilhelmstrasse. The close proximity of the Air Ministry, the headquarters of the Reichsbahn Railway, the Propaganda Ministry, as well as Hitler's Chancellery and bunker, made the area an obvious target. When a British official revisited the site in 1945 after the war, he found nothing intact except the front gate with a British coat of arms "and the remains of my old Vauxhall in the garage".

The East Germans renamed the street after Otto Groewohl, the Communist Prime Minister. In 1950 the East Berlin Heritage Office declared the ruins of the embassy a protected area. But when demolition crews tried to pull down the dangerous wreck of the neighbouring Adlon Hotel, the remains of the embassy collapsed.

Wilhelmstrasse has only recently regained its name after a long debate over whether it



Inside the 1868 Wilhelmstrasse palace by August Orth

should be called Tolerance Street or Willy Brandt Avenue. The name still carries a deep resonance for older Germans, although the street bears no resemblance to its prewar character. It has become a broad socialist-designed boulevard of high-rise estates, built largely in the 1970s and early 1980s but prematurely aged. Some former Politburo members and their families live there, as does Katarina Witt, the former ice skating star, and Rolf Hochhuth, the writer. Dotted along the street there are signs of unification: pizzerias, photocopying shops and, on the site

of the Reichskanzler Palace, a boutique called Marlene D.

During the East German era, the British Embassy was in an ugly modern building on Unter den Linden, which, along with the embassy in Bonn, will be sold. All the diplomats will move to Wilhelmstrasse. The new embassy on the old site will be more than 100,000 sq ft, the seat of Government - Helmut Kohl wants his Chancellery to be part of a government complex on the Spree river. However, the Adlon Hotel is being rebuilt, and its cooking smells may well wait over British diplomacy once again.

Grand style chosen for new embassy

BY MARCUS BINNEY, ARCHITECTURE CORRESPONDENT

CEREMONIAL splendour lives again in the winning design for the new British Embassy in Berlin. From a line-up including Sir Michael Hopkins, designer of the new Glynedebourne, and Nicholas Grimshaw, architect of the new Waterloo station, the Foreign Office has chosen the design by Michael Wilford, partner of the late Sir James Stirling and co-author of the controversial No 10 Poultry Building.

The facade of Mr Wilford's design will be in stone chosen to match that of the nearby Brandenburg Gate, with the ambassador's office breaking forcefully through the frontage. Rejected designs proposed glass, metal and even bronze for the facade.

The most striking feature of Mr Wilford's design is a spectacular series of interior spaces. Visitors will ascend a grand staircase to a piano nobile and enter a winter garden encircled by balconies.

In choosing the Wilford design, the Foreign Office has passed over an even more dramatic project by Will Alsop, architect of the vast new electric-blue provincial parliament in Marseilles. Mr

Alsop proposed a facade of vivid green glass blocks to be etched by the artist Bruce McClean. While strongly favoured by some of the assessors, it is believed to have been considered too radical by the Foreign Office.

The assessors considered that overall Mr Wilford had best understood the character of Berlin's city architecture. The new embassy will contain the chancery, consular and commercial sections as well as extensive conference and dining facilities but not the ambassador's residence. It will be completed in 1999.

Other countries, including America and France, are planning their own embassies near by on land restored to them by Germany.

Strict planning guidelines exist for historically sensitive areas in Berlin. In Wilhelmstrasse the eaves of buildings may not exceed 72ft, but there are no restrictions on materials, in contrast to the City of Westminster where certain glass facades are prohibited. Among the other architects competing, Nicholas Grimshaw is designing the new stock exchange in Berlin and Will Alsop has been building in Hamburg's port.

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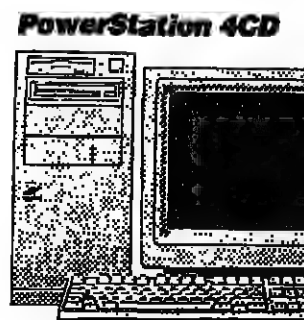
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Five held as Eta regroups

FROM EDWARD OWEN IN MADRID

IN A severe blow to Eta, the dwindling Basque separatist group, Spanish Civil Guards yesterday detained five suspected terrorists who were said to be forming a new unit in Barcelona.

Jaume Casanovas, the civil governor of Barcelona, said: "The organisation of the commando has been aborted. There were no details of proposed attacks, at least that is what we have been able to deduce." One of three women detained, Rosario Izquierdo, eluded capture last April when the previous leader of the Barcelona group, Felipe San Epifanio, was detained.

For nine months the Civil Guards had followed another Eta suspect, Juan Carlos Maya, in Barcelona. They were led yesterday to Señora Izquierdo and later found three alleged safe-house apartments in the Barcelona area. They arrested three other Eta suspects. Señor Casanovas said that the regrouping proved the organisation was weakening.

Albanians learn how to complain

BY EVE-ANN PRENTICE, DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN is to help to set up a consumers' advice centre in Albania - the former Stalinist and isolated corner of Europe where many citizens still marvel about having anything to consume, let alone the right to complain about goods or service.

The new centre will deal with problems as remote from the usual run of complaints in Britain as Albania is from Abingdon.

After decades of isolation, entrepreneurial Albanians are setting up small businesses, often with more gusto than regard for health and safety. "Bakeries are being run from small, private apartments, for instance, which means there is more bread, which is good, but with no regard for the neighbours," said Christine Knights of Consumers International, a London-based umbrella group of consumer groups in more than 80 countries, who is travelling to Albania next week to help to plan the project.

Britain is helping to pay the £95,000 cost of running the Albanian association for the first year. The organisation

will build on an embryonic Albanian Consumers' Association, which has been run from a small unheated room in the capital, Tirana, by Islam Cani, a retired doctor. He has no telephone or fax and only two ancient typewriters and the help of a band of unpaid volunteers.

Even if Dr Cani could afford the equipment he needs, he would not dare install it in the flat, said Ms Knights, "because it would be stolen".

"Albanians daily are faced with contaminated drinking water, sporadic electricity and poor - if not non-existent - telephones and public transport," said Ms Knights, who will spend a week in Tirana finalising plans to launch the organisation next year.

Dr Cani's struggling and impoverished group has nonetheless become the largest non-governmental organisation in Albania, with 12,600 members. It has helped dozens of Albanians to receive compensation for faulty electrical appliances, and distributed 50,000 leaflets warning about drinking contaminated water.



Ibrahim Ali: was shot dead on his way home

Campaign killing

Paris: Men putting up campaign posters in Marseilles for the extreme-right National Front opened fire after arguing with immigrant youths, killing Ibrahim Ali, a 17-year-old African who was approaching his house, police said yesterday. The gunmen escaped in two cars.

The incident was the first serious political violence of France's presidential campaign. Jean-Marie Le Pen, the National Front's leader and presidential candidate said he had received contradictory information about the incident and urged the media not to besmirch his party. (AP)

Visa maze tests Russian patience

FROM RICHARD BERTON IN MOSCOW

AFTER decades of criticising the Soviet authorities for not letting their citizens travel abroad, Western countries, including Britain, are being accused of imposing unfair rules to prevent Russians visiting Europe and America.

In a move that could turn into a serious diplomatic row, the Russian authorities have threatened to impose tighter restrictions on foreigners visiting Russia. "It is no secret that Russians who go abroad, notably to Western Europe, are confronted with considerable difficulties in obtaining visas," said Vasili Vinogradov, the head of the Foreign Ministry's consular department, who threatened retaliatory action. "We are faced with a case of violation of human rights."

At the long queues outside the consular sections of Western embassies in Moscow, horror stories abound about waiting weeks for visas, and generally being made to feel as though Russians are not welcome abroad. Much of the criticism has been directed at the American

Embassy, where the controversy has reached the Russian parliament and forced the direct intervention of Thomas Pickering, the Ambassador.

But the British mission in Moscow is no exception. One young Russian queuing this week said: "It is terrible here, as bad as Soviet bureaucracy." Travel agencies organising package tours to Western Europe complained that Britain was the only country which often called in holidaymakers for interviews. But Gifford Harrison, the British Consul, said that the visa section had to be careful to weed out Russians who might want to live in Britain. Nearly 96,000 Russians applied to visit Britain last year, almost double the figure in 1991. The embassy is increasing its consular staff and hopes to reduce the five-week waiting list.

Although only about 2,000 Russians were turned down last year, the system appears to discriminate against those unfamiliar with the system and intimidated by officials. On Tuesday, Lea Muratova, a pensioner who wants to visit an elderly friend in England, said that the consular department had told her she

was unlikely to be granted a visa. "The embassy was much kinder to me a few years ago when it gave me a visa to visit England," she said, after spending most of the morning standing outside the embassy in sub-zero temperatures. "Now they have made it clear they don't want me to travel there any more. I suppose I am too old and too poor."

Although the embassy says that it provides a "fast track" for people travelling to Britain on business, recent letters in The Times from British businessmen and academics with contacts in Russia accused the consular section of harming Russo-British ties by making the visa application process so bureaucratic.

"I spent hours standing in line and when I finally got into the embassy the visa official asked me how much I paid to get to the front of the queue," said one Russian publisher. "What makes me angry is that if I had been a mafia boss they would have probably stamped my passport straight away and wished me a pleasant trip."

Leading article, page 17

Middle-class women who are abandoned by their husbands and ignored by the State are finding a voice at last

A forgotten army of the betrayed

They are not the sort to make trouble, the ladies of a certain age who are signing up as fighters in Dawn Barnett's legion of the dispossessed. Nor did they ever expect to become a burden on the state. On the contrary, as loyal and long-serving wives to diplomats, clergymen, local government officers and exporters of British goods, they were the living embodiment of the basic values that Mr Major was so anxious to get back to.

Then came the shock of being dumped by their husbands, and of finding Britain to be the only European country where an ex-wife has no entitlement to part of the pension that she helped her husband accumulate.

Mrs Barnett, a 55-year-old drama teacher, made this unpleasant discovery in 1993 when her husband, a senior education officer, left her for a younger colleague in whose classroom — to add insult to injury — she now finds herself teaching. She started a pressure group, Fair Shares, to change the law so that a pension (which in these days of negative equity is often the biggest financial asset in a marriage) can be split between the partners upon divorce.

The tales of woe came flooding in, and have become a torrent this week now that Baroness Young has got the House of Lords behind her amendment to the Pensions Bill.

Mrs Barnett stresses that her own case is more comfortable than that of many of her correspondents, who have had to resort to council accommodation and income support. She teaches full-time and earns about £20,000, but she has managed to accumulate a pension of only £5,000 herself. Her husband earns £42,000, plus a car allowance, and his girlfriend, who is childless, earns the same as Mrs Barnett but has a fully paid-up pension. "In so many cases the husband ends up with a share of the house, his salary, his pension and a younger wife with assets of her own."

"Many couples looked upon marriage as a lifetime thing, as I did, and took out endowment policies on their houses. Those are long-term commitments and when a husband walks out on them, the wife is left juggling with bills that barely exist. My house is valued at £80,000 but if I sold it now I should

be left with only about £20,000. I call myself Mrs Typical. I have recently developed high blood pressure, I still provide support for my three grown-up children, and there are hundreds of thousands of us in situations that are similar or much worse."

Women who interrupted their careers to follow their husbands abroad are in particular difficulties. Baroness Thomas, 59, the new Liberal Democrat peer and former wife of our Ambassador to Cuba, was perturbed at her solicitor's reaction when she asked to have account taken of her husband's pension in the divorce settlement. "What disturbed me was that the lawyer said she had never heard of anyone trying to do that."

Solicitors often fail to use even



MARGOT NORMAN

the limited powers that the law allows in this respect. Lady Thomas emphasises that her own divorce is amicable, and that, as a member of the House of Lords, she has in a sense acquired her own pension. However, for years she was a professional but unpaid diplomatic wife before entering local politics; another career which provides no pension. "I do think that diplomatic wives of my generation and older are in a very difficult position, as indeed are all those who spend much of their lives travelling with their husbands and supporting their work. Nobody in the diplomatic service ever thanks you for the work you do."

Susan Colman, who was married to a clergyman, echoes that sentiment vis-à-vis the Church. Since her husband deserted her in 1982 she has received "not a penny from the Church, nor any thanks either for all my years of work as an unpaid curate". Mrs Colman, who is now 57, married at 21 and had four children. Her husband was an atheist selling roller skates at Selfridges when they married. When he decided to become a

clergyman they sold up everything and she combined motherhood with charring while he studied at theological college. Then came the years as an unpaid curate. A trained artist, Mrs Colman sold her graphic work to support the family while her husband gave up parish work to write two (unsuccessful) books. Then he left her, ostensibly to become a monk. (In fact, he took up with a friend of hers and fathered a child.)

Late in life, Mrs Colman started paying what she could into a personal pension scheme. Having got the children through university, she found herself caring for her elderly father, who has Alzheimer's, and his sister. She registered with the local authority as a carer, for which she receives £34 a week. Then came another blow. She discovered it was against the tax laws to use that money towards her pension, so it had to be suspended.

"You have to remember that clergy wives are in a particularly tricky position because the clergy have no property. It is purely thanks to a legacy that I have a house, but there are abandoned clergy wives living in penury while the Church looks after their former husbands. Do you know, when I rang Church House eight years ago and asked to speak to someone in the pensions department, I was told they didn't speak to women? Things are now slightly better, but the Church is still dragging its feet."

In Monday's House of Lords debate peers from all parties cited cases of genital distress. Dawn Barnett has sheaves of pathetic letters from people like Mrs F. of Essex, whose businessman husband announced after 23 years of marriage that he was leaving her to buy a bigger boat and that there was no question of her having any of his pension.

Her correspondents have suffered a deep humiliation, and most of them find it painful to speak publicly of their situation. These women have lived much of their lives in a prosperous middle-class existence and looked forward to a comfortable old age. They are victims of a double betrayal — first by their husbands and then by the system. The Government must prevaricate no longer.

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Dawn Barnett: "In so many cases the husband ends up with a share of the house, his salary, his pension and a younger wife with assets of her own."

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The Rolling Stones just keep on rolling — all the way to the bank.

Giles Coren catches their latest tour



Ron Wood and Mick Jagger arrive in South Africa

The Rolling Stones bandwagon is about inevitable. Every day the boys get a little older and a little richer. But their arrival in Johannesburg yesterday, to play two gigs at the Ellis Park rugby stadium, means a new venue, if no new departure, for the biggest rock 'n' roll juggernaut in the world.

Things have come a long way since 1964, when police were called in to control rioting fans at a small concert in Paris. The band were promoting their first number one single, "It's All Over Now", which, of course, was far from the truth. By 1969, they were still evangelical enough about their art to perform free concerts in Hyde Park, and California. Two years later came a farewell tour of the UK and the Stones became the first band to go into tax exile, where they remain to this day — symbolic of the pre-eminence of wealth generation over making music.

Ten years after that first farewell, the real business began. "Tattoo You", in 1981, was the first of the stadium-based mega tours. In 1985 came the mammoth "Steel Wheels" world tour, which took £185 million and a place in the Guinness Book of Records as the most lucrative ever. Stars like Michael Jackson, Madonna, and Paul McCartney barely reached the £100 million mark for theirs. Now the Stones's record is to be broken at last — by themselves. When the global rollercoaster finally pulls up, it will have generated a gross income of £225 million.

Today, their tours are no longer about promoting records — as their publicist, Bernard Docherty, made clear. "It is the tours them-

selves that make the money," he said. "The Stones have never had an album as successful as Michael Jackson's *Thriller*. The *Voodoo Lounge* album only made about £7 million. But when they are on stage there is this 'boys are back in town' feel. What that excitement sells is commemorative merchandise."

Here is the crux. Today, the lads are icons rather than singers: they must perform occasionally to remind people to buy the jackets — \$80,000 worth of T-shirts were sold in a single night in Los Angeles. The sweating London crowds who screamed at one swivel of the Jagger hips in 1963 might have been even more excited to know they might one day own a Stones Visa card from Chase Manhattan Bank, or an £18,000 Honky Tonk Wagen, designed for Volkswagen.

But in South Africa there were more important things to sweat about in the 1960s than rock 'n' roll, and by the 1980s conscientious artists were singing the tune of the famous protest, "I ain't gonna play Sun City."

If South Africans missed the birth of pop music, they will soon meet its old foe — as well as the 250 roadster, 56 truck caravan, nine customised buses, and a specially rented Boeing 727. They are all the world's largest mobile disco-screen and star tower, so high they have jettisoned warning lights. The 1,500 stage lights are so bright they could be seen on the moon.

This is what with African punters (almost exclusively white, according to a journalist on Johannesburg's *Star* newspaper) willing for their 255 Rand (£50) — a test of technical wizardry, and the very apogee of modern marketing. It is no surprise that Mick Jagger decried this the "no drink, no drugs tour". The wily businessman does not wreck hotel roofs on marketing trips.

An indication that South Africans do not really know what they are getting into is something about Keith Richards by anti-furrier at Jan Smuts Aort. "Jou Dronkga," he says — meaning "you drunker."

He must have thought he was back in the 1960s. If he goes to Ellis Park Friday night he will find it he is not.

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How travellers can best avoid malaria □ A new way to stop infection from IUDs □ Treating people with real or imagined bodily defects



TRAVELLERS do not have to be inspired by *Sanders of the River* or the British Raj to catch malaria. The Anopheles mosquito has no discrimination and is as happy feeding off the bare limbs of dancers in the cannabis-laden atmosphere of a Thai island bar as it is sucking the blood of a pioneer in the bush.

Last year 1,800 people returning from malarial zones developed the disease. For they were back in Britain: seven died. The year before there were 2,000 cases and four deaths. The increase in the death rate may be chance, but it is noticeable that the proportion of returning travellers who develop malignant Plasmodium falciparum — which when untreated has a death rate of up to 20 per cent — is increasing, compared with the benign malarial species P. vivax, P. malariae and P. ovale.

In future, people going abroad will have to buy their own anti-malarials. Anti-malarial tablets will no longer be provided by the NHS.

First the bite, then the wait

chloroquine, two weekly, can already be bought over the chemist's counter. The tablets should be started two weeks before leaving and continued for at least four weeks after the holiday-maker's return.

Lariam mefloquine is rapidly becoming the first choice for malarial prophylaxis in many countries; these tablets will still be on prescription but the patient will have to pay an NHS doctor for a private prescription and the chemist for the tablets. Conversely, people could attend a British Airways travel clinic.



MEDICAL BRIEFING

Dr Thomas Stuttford

The standard advice for those taking Lariam is that one week should be taken for at least six weeks, starting one week before departure and continuing for at least four weeks after return. A recent report in *The Lancet* says that the average time for malaria to become manifest after a return from an overseas holiday, and when the prophylaxis has been ineffective, is about 14 days for Phaludrine; whereas if Lariam has failed it is 44 days. Doctors must therefore be alert to the potential danger of malaria for

many weeks after a patient has returned to this country.

Lariam is usually thought to have a better record of preventing malaria than a combination of chloroquine and Phaludrine; but there is a suggestion that this is because the regime is easier to follow — and that if chloroquine and Phaludrine are taken as directed they are equally effective.

The sad truth is that none of the anti-malarials are totally effective and all have side-effects. Lariam can upset sleep patterns, produce vivid dreams and may disturb the delicate balance of somebody whose emotional state is precarious. It can also occasionally cause nausea and vomiting.

Phaludrine may give rise to indigestion and mouth ulcers, but contrary to the belief of old empire hands, it does not take away the libido. Chloroquine causes the occasional rash and temporary blurring of vision but serious eye troubles are only found in prolonged uses at high doses, which are not prescribed by British doctors.

Whatever drug is chosen, the first line of defence against malaria is still to avoid being bitten.

Coil cure



WHEN the coil, the IUD, was first introduced, it seemed an ideal method of contraception. Initially, when they are fitted, there is a danger of perforation of the uterus or of infection, problems overcome by good technique.

The greatest problem of the coil is the possibility of pelvic inflammatory disease. The vagina is like a stairwell; the two tails of the IUD left hanging from the cervix act like a rope ladder which leads to the uterus above and the fallopian tubes beyond. By ascending these tails any organism — in particular, chlamydia — can gain entrance to the uterus and give rise to pelvic inflammatory disease and the possibility of later infertility.

General Practitioner reports that doctors at Queen's Medical Centre in Nottingham have designed a coil which fits within the uterus so no tail hangs into the vagina to act as a possible conduit which could allow bacteria to

creep up into the pelvis. A special device allows the coil to be removed when necessary.

Nearly 100 women were seen regularly for almost two years by the doctors conducting the trial. Statistics would suggest that up to 10 per cent of the women would have been expected to develop pelvic inflammatory disease but none of those who were taking part in the research did.

Anatomy lesson



DYSMORPHIA, or as psychiatrists have started to call it "body dysmorphic disorder", describes the state of mind in which a patient has an obsessive horror about some part of their anatomy.

Dysmorphia is one of the most troublesome conditions to treat. If a patient has, for instance, bat ears, or huge breasts, it is comparatively easy to arrange consultations with a view to plastic surgery for suitable cases. A doctor's heart sinks, however, when confronted

by a patient with a neat, straight nose, who maintains that their life is being destroyed by an imagined imperfection in its shape or size.

Doctor magazine reports on the first UK study into Dysmorphia. Dr Anne Bockock of the Royal Free Hospital, London, told the winter meeting of the Royal College of Psychiatrists that it affects more women than men, and 84 per cent are anxieties centred on some real, or imagined, facial defect. In 12 per cent of the cases women were anxious about their breasts, and in another 12 per cent men were dissatisfied with their genitalia.

Dr Bockock found that patients sometimes spent three hours a day studying their problem part. Dysmorphia is more of a symptom than a disease in itself. It coexists with anxiety, depression, or a more serious psychotic disease. Recently a patient told me he was preoccupied with the size of his penis — unusually, he thought it too big. It transpired that he was also plotting murder to revenge himself on those who didn't have his handicap. This admission rapidly put his genital obsession into perspective. Less serious troubles can respond to Prozac.

A very happy heartday

Derrick Morris
Europe's
largest surviving
transplant
patient, reports
Alan Road

Derrick Morris will spend today with his wife, Beryl, babysitting two grandchildren he might never have seen. Mr Morris is Europe's longest surviving heart transplant recipient and after their grandparental duties he couple will go out this evening for a quiet meal to celebrate the 15th anniversary of his life-saving operation at Harefield Hospital.

Mr Morris, a Swansea dockworker, little realised when he learnt of the world's first successful heart transplant by South African surgeon Christiaan Barnard in 1967 that one day he would benefit from that revolutionary medical breakthrough. "I thought what a marvellous thing it was, but my trouble hadn't started then," he says.

His problems began with a heart attack in 1975. He is a lifelong non-smoker and the only contributory factors he can identify are stress and DIY. "I was a worrier," he admits. He worried not only about his work as a cargo supervisor at the docks, but about forthcoming events in his social life. And then there was the fact that he and his brother-in-law had been laying a new Morris home overlooking Swansea Bay.

After his first heart attack there was a steady deterioration in his condition and several smaller attacks. By 1979 he could scarcely walk and had to give up work. His problem was an aneurysm on the left side of his heart. "It was like a balloon of blood hanging out of my heart," he explains. Mr Morris was told that being down to do up a shoelace could cause it to burst and kill him.

His condition became so serious that when he was referred to London's National Heart Hospital in Westminster, his wife was told that nothing could be done for him. He was given only months to live. "It was a matter of taking me home and waiting for the end," he remembers.

So when the couple were approached by Professor Magdi Yacoub about the possibility of a transplant, they did not need long to deliberate. "My wife and I knew it was the only thing to be done," he says. "If I didn't have it, I would not be around any more."

At the time, the prognosis was not encouraging. No heart transplant had been undertaken at Harefield, though pioneering work had begun six months earlier at Papworth Hospital in the third candidate. A woman operated on only days before him died after 11 hours. "And



Mr Morris in the recovery room at Harefield in 1980 — soon he was sitting up in bed eating a three-course meal



Mr Morris at home yesterday — "Like all transplant survivors, I look upon every day as a bonus," he says

you have to remember I was watching all this on television and knew exactly what was happening," he says.

Mr Morris's condition was so bad that he was not allowed even to return home to await a suitable organ, but kept under close supervision in the National Heart Hospital. After two false alarms, with donors that were not an exact match, he was finally transferred to Harefield and operated on in the early hours of Saturday, February 23.

His operation lasted four hours and he recovered consciousness soon afterwards with his new heart beating well. When had he begun to feel the benefits of his surgery? "Well, let's just say that on the Sunday afternoon after the operation I was sitting up in bed eating a three-course meal." The day after that he was out of bed and taking exercise.

The first thing he saw from his window was a carpet of daffodils in the hospital grounds. "For a Welshman that was marvellous," he says. For nine weeks his home was "the bubble" — a sterile room in the hospital. A further month was spent in what was known as a semi-sterile situation, and only then was he

allowed to return to an ordinary hospital room for a few weeks before moving to a flat in the local village. From the outset, Beryl was with him and his two sons were constant visitors. Nowadays, the whole process and the resulting bill in terms of bed occupancy and nursing costs have been cut. Transplant patients are in hospital for only a few weeks, Mr Morris says. "In some cases it is cheaper than a by-pass operation."

Five months after the operation, Mr Morris was fit to return to Swansea and a year later he was back at work. His job involves much toiling and frothing on quaysides, climbing on to wagons and boarding ships. "I haven't been breathless since the operation," he says. Sollicitous colleagues, who formerly would urge him to sit down and taken things easy, no longer bother.

At first, daily exercise in-

cluded 20 miles cycling and a lot of walking. Nowadays the regime is more relaxed. "I'm nearly 65, not 50," he says. "If the weather is fine, Beryl and I go for a walk along the seaford here." A long-time member of Swansea Rugby Club, he admits to being an armchair spectator these days.

He also knows that, in sporting terms, he is 15 years into extra time. Time added on has allowed him to see two sons settled in their careers and the births of three grandchildren. "Like all transplant survivors, I look upon every day as a bonus."

Survival is the heart of the matter. With his new outlook on life, "I look in wonder at the grass and the buds on the trees that others take for granted," he says. "At night I look up the warehouse and as far as I'm concerned that's it." For the rest of his life he must take half a dozen tablets each day. Most are anti-rejection drugs and they are a small price, he says, to pay for feeling on top of the world.

Mr Morris will never forget that his transplant was made possible after an agonising decision made by the husband of a 36-year-old London lorry driver, who died when she was

crushed in an accident. Shortly after his operation, he wrote to the man, but received no reply. "It was a terrible letter to write," he recalls. Then, 11 years after the transplant, the husband let it be known that he would like to see the Morris and a meeting was arranged. "We had a nice get-together."

Mr Morris has become a tireless biker and walker for heart charities. On Saturday he and other transplant patients from around Britain will be kicking up their heels at a buffet-disco held to raise money towards a £15 million scanner appeal for Harefield Hospital.

Then, next week he must return to Harefield for what he calls his annual MCT check. "They keep a close watch on me." There can't be many men on the verge of qualifying for a bus pass with only 41 years on the clock.

How long should a sick leave last?

Dr Simon Wessely on the different attitudes employers take when serious illness strikes a member of staff

I run a clinical service that specialises in seeing patients with chronic fatigue. We see people with complaints ranging from general feelings of tiredness and lassitude that affect all of us from time to time, to those with profound distress and disability who have often been diagnosed as suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome or ME. Under these broad labels we find a variety of problems and illnesses, covering much of medicine and psychiatry.

However, there is one thing that we can rely on. Not long after the initial appointment, a letter usually follows from the patient's employers, asking when, or if, their employee will be able to return to work.

Some employers are remarkably supportive. I recall a high-flying City lawyer who collapsed with what Victorian doctors would have unhesitatingly diagnosed as nervous exhaustion (a wonderful term which deserves to be reintroduced to the medical textbooks) shortly after the end of a vicious takeover battle. During that time he had been working 16-hour days without respite, and without any obvi-

ous ill effects. Two weeks later he was almost unable to get out of bed. My gentle suggestion that stress at work might have played a part was not, however, well received. "Non-sense, I thrive on stress — absolutely love it," was his response. His firm, however, were in little doubt about the origin of his illness, and could not have been more helpful. He recovered, until perhaps the next takeover bid.

Our standard practice is to plan a gradual return to work over several months, something which private employers, contrary to popular prejudice, can often accommodate with ease. For those working in the NHS or social services, all too often we are told that the patient can either be sick and off work, or well and back at full-time work. Unfortunately, few of our patients can make such a simple and swift transition from sickness to health. How patients return to work can be as important as the treatment of the underlying illness.

Sometimes the decisions are straightforward, if devastating to the individual concerned. The pilot with heart disease, the NHS sea diver with inner ear problems, or the coach driver with epilepsy, cannot

continue in his or her previous occupation. However, other decisions are more complex. Illnesses as diverse as haemophilia, hepatitis and diabetic hypoglycaemia, all of which affect people of working age, can cause difficulties in certain working conditions.

For those seeking further guidance, the bible has traditionally been *Fitness for Work: The Medical Aspects* produced by the Faculty of Occupational Medicine of the Royal College of Physicians. The second edition (Oxford Medical Publications, £27.50), updated to include changes in medicine and in employment law has just been published.

Fitness for Work is comprehensive, but not detailed. In particular, mental health deserves greater attention. Each year an estimated 80 million working days are lost because of overt mental health problems at a cost of nearly £4

billion — likely to be exceeded by the costs of covert psychological problems hidden under labels such as back pain, irritable bowel and the like. Despite their importance, mental health problems are also associated with more ignorance and prejudice than any of the other 16 subjects reviewed in *Fitness for Work*, with the possible exception of HIV.

Fortunately both the Department of Health and the Royal Colleges are now launching new initiatives. These will be presented at a conference on mental health issues in the workplace jointly organised by the Royal Colleges of General Practitioners and Psychiatrists on April 19.

Details of the conference on "Depression in the Workplace" can be obtained from Deborah Hart at the Deaf Depression Campaign (0171-235 2351).

Shortly after the end of a vicious takeover battle, the lawyer was almost unable to get out of bed

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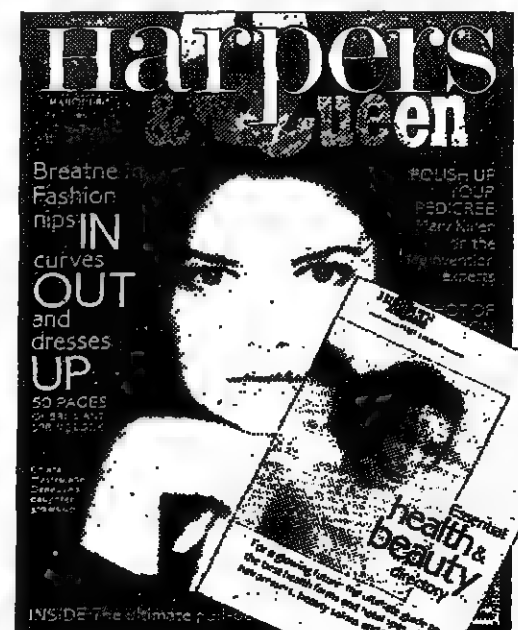
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Time for self-help in Ulster

Negotiation stands more chance this time, says Matthew d'Ancona

The joint framework document published in Belfast yesterday was presented with rhetorical fanfare as a joyous beginning, which it may prove to be. But those with a knowledge of Ulster's recent past will appreciate that it is also an ending. Written in the crisp phrases of Anglo-Irish negotiation, the document is the final product of a long dialogue between London and Dublin, principally between officials — which has lasted more than a decade.

Underpinning this public and private dialogue has been the pinstriped confidence of diplomats in both countries that they alone can square the circle of Northern Ireland. They have persuaded successive generations of ministers to trust them. They are misguided in their calculations about Ulster. But their error does not mean that peace is unachievable. Indeed, the dawning realisation that these anonymous draftsmen cannot produce a comprehensive settlement may be exactly the spur that the people of Ulster need to devise their own.

The final version of the document is essentially the same as the leaked draft reported in *The Times* earlier this month. At its heart is a proposed North-South body which will be the linchpin between Dublin and the new administrative assembly in the North. Some will see it as a healthy constitutional expression of cross-border co-operation, others as a sinister prototype for the administration of a united Ireland.

To such extravagant fears, London responds with exasperated reassurances. Nothing, the document makes plain, will be done without the consent of the majority in the North. This principle has been emphasised time and time again by both Governments since the Downing Street declaration. "Ulster says no", the diatribe loyalist cry, has been translated into "Ulster is quite entitled to say no".

The trouble is that it probably will say no if asked to endorse these proposals. The Ulster people will find it desperately difficult to accept a North-South institution set up by Westminster and Dublin. In their present form, the proposals would face a very rough ride in a referendum in the Province. Memory stalks Ulster like a malevolent spirit, and memory of the Sunningdale agreement of 1973 is particularly acute among Unionists.

At this ill-starred conference, it was agreed that a Council of Ireland would be formed, bringing together politicians from North and South. Within six months, the Ulster Workers' Council strike had brought the whole precarious edifice tumbling down. The British Establishment could scarcely contain its disgust. Harold Wilson called the strike organisers "thugs and bullies". In the *London Evening News*, Lord Arran wrote: "I loathe and detest the miserable bastards... May the Irish, all of them, rot in Hell." Will we see a return to this

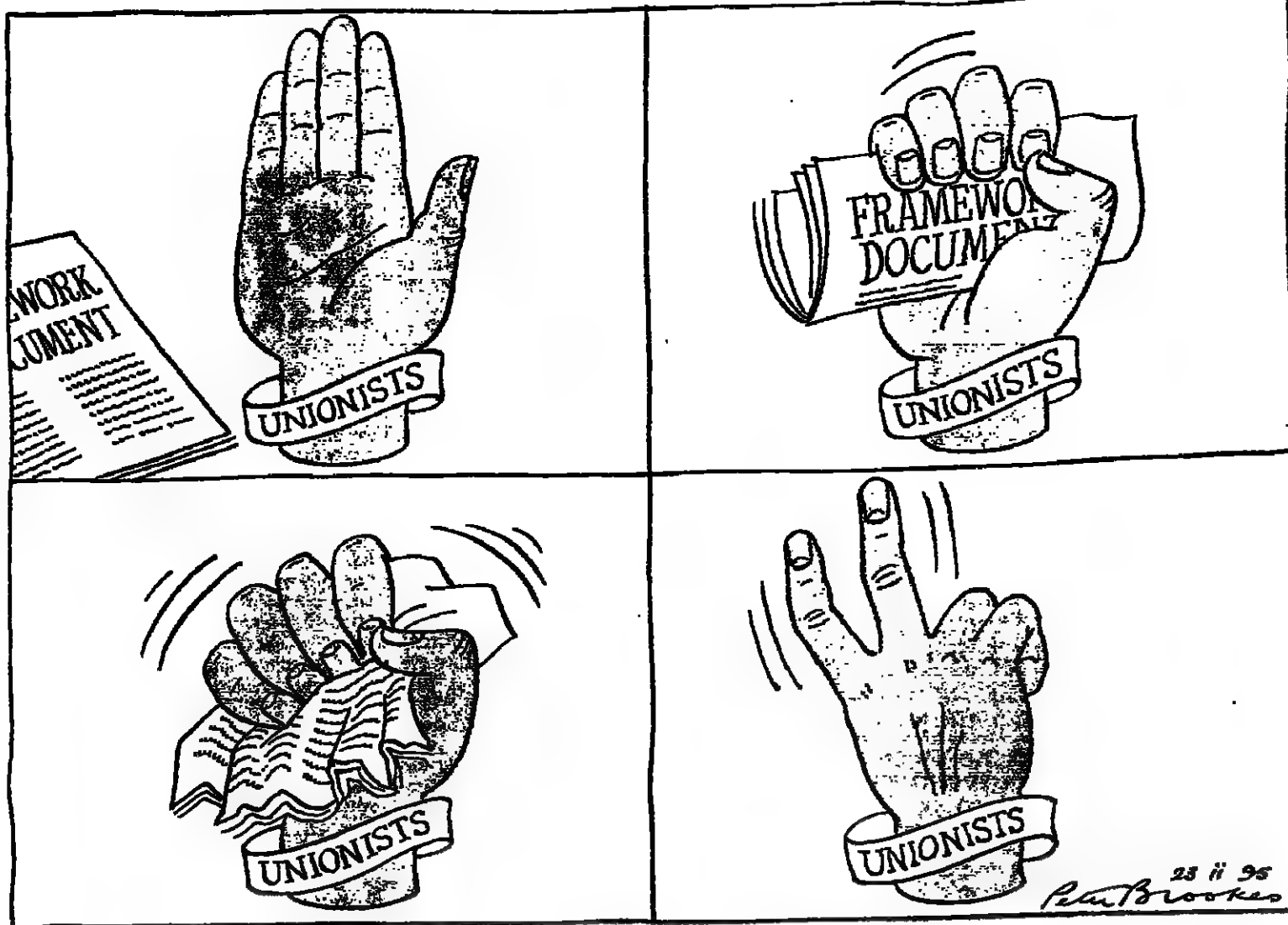
brutal spiral of events, leading again to murderous impasse? I think comparisons with 1973-74 should be drawn only with great caution. The burden of history is great in Northern Ireland, and the gulf between the two communities remains wide, but a quarter-century of suffering has created a predisposition to peace which was lacking in 1973. John Major has not got it right yet, but there are reasons to be cheerful.

The first is the Republic's willingness to scrap its constitutional claim to the North. It remains to be seen in what form precisely this will be put to the Irish people and whether they will be prepared to accept this momentous change to Eamon de Valera's constitution. That said, the shift is remarkable, and a tribute to Dick Spring, who had the courage to suggest, as long ago as March 1993, that the claim was not "cast in bronze".

Secondly, there is a growing recognition within Unionist ranks that the final settlement must include an all-Ireland dimension. Most Unionist politicians now acknowledge the need for a power-sharing structure to give the nationalists a voice. There is no longer doctrinal opposition to flexible cross-border institutions. Crucially, the Unionists want these bodies to be set up by the administrative assembly. How this demand is to be reconciled with the framework document is far from clear. The point is that the gap between the official proposals and mainstream Unionist opinion is not as great as it might be. The Prime Minister had "calm and reasonable" talks with Ian Paisley on Tuesday; the Official Unionists will almost certainly join the new talks process, if only to put forward their own ideas.

Above all, the Province is to have its own representative institution. The precedents for this venture are not encouraging: the assembly established by the 1982 Northern Ireland Act, for example, was a woeful failure. But failure then does not mean failure now. There is a new generation of young politicians in the North, desperate for a forum outside Westminster in which to voice the hopes and fears of the people they represent. This assembly will be a chance to reduce the constitutional distortions of direct rule and to enhance the Province's stultified political culture. All the constitutional parties should embrace it.

The real work starts now. John Major must find a formula to which the Unionists can say yes. The joint framework document is almost certainly not that formula. But there is a sufficient momentum in the peace process for other possibilities to be explored, other blueprints to be unfolded across the negotiating table. "Too long a sacrifice," wrote Ireland's greatest poet, "Can make a stone of the heart." But it can also make a people weary of sacrifice. Mr. Major must pray that Ulster's weariness is also its hope.



GRASPING THE OPPORTUNITY

Italy's plight is ours too

Only a programme of privatisations and sound finance can help Italy out of its morass — and only the Right can do that

serious deficit problem as well as that of refinancing.

In the first half of this year, according to the Lombard Street Research figures, Italy has to finance or refinance some 469,000 billion lire of debt. That is equivalent to £180 billion, or about two-thirds of the Italian GDP of the period. The peak of this refinancing will come next month, when the Italian treasury will have to raise 119,000 billion lire, or £45 billion. Any shortfall would usually be raised by borrowing from the central bank; that will be inflationary, but would make certain that

stable majority can do the job. Silvio Berlusconi himself was not able to persuade this parliament to reform the Italian pension system, which has become an intolerable burden on the State. The trade unions brought more than a million people onto the streets of Rome to demonstrate in favour of these abuses. Without financial reform, and a painful reduction in the budget deficit, Italy is doomed to accelerating inflation. No investor is going to pour funds into the black hole of a depreciating lira.

Confidence cannot therefore be regained without a general election, and the sooner this takes place the better. By an unfortunate coincidence, the early months of this year present the biggest problem of refinancing — it will still be very difficult in the second half of the year, but not quite so bad. The earliest proposed date for a general election is June, but it now seems likely that the Dini Government will not last until the autumn.

The Italians should then be faced with a straight choice between permanent coalitions of the Right or the Left. The left wing will be led by Professor Romano Prodi, who belongs to the left-wing faction of the old Christian Democrats. His main body of support will however come from the PDS, which is the ultimate heir of the old Italian Communist Party. The Italian left wing is a respectable democratic progressive party, whether or not it knows what to do now.

Most of the polls suggest that the Right is more likely to win, in which case the next government will probably again be led by Silvio Berlusconi, with Gianfranco Fini, the leader of the National Alliance, as a senior member. Their first task will be to restore financial confidence. It is not the Italian economy that is breaking down; industry is performing well, aided by the fall in the lira. The

difficulties are immense, but so is the pressure. My own expectation is that there will be a general election in Italy in June, that it will produce an overall majority for the Right, that a Berlusconi-Fini government will be formed, and that major financial reforms will be carried into effect. If that is optimism, it is an optimism based on pessimism. This seems to be the only way in which Italy can now be saved from inflation and default.

Italy's success is vital to Europe and to Britain in particular. If the European Union develops as a German-French hub with an outer rim, Italy and Britain will be the largest two economies in the outer circle. We will be trying to balance the power of the centre. What is good or bad for Italy is good or bad for Britain.

William Rees-Mogg

Sour suite

A WEDDING night might be important, but Madonna, it appears, comes first. A couple who married in Wiltshire on Saturday turned up at the Lanesborough Hotel after their reception to find that Madonna was staying and their bridal suite was occupied by one of her entourage.

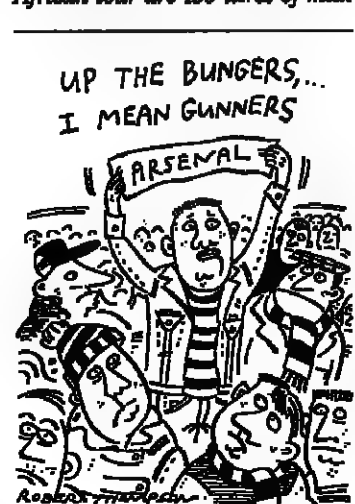
The bride and groom, still in their wedding finery, arrived at the hotel in their Rolls-Royce at 11 pm to find the reception lobby bustling with security guards and the bedroom occupied. The Lanesborough, where suites cost up to £3,000 a night, advised stockbroker Oliver Hensley and his bride, Charlotte Baddely, that they would have to stay in an alternative hotel, and ferried them to the Halkin close by.

Yesterday, the couple were on honeymoon in South America, but the groom's sister said they were, to say the least, put out. "They were horrified because they booked ages ago. It was 11 o'clock at night. Charlotte was still wearing her bridal dress and my brother was very, very cross."

Michael Naylor-Leyland, the assistant general manager at the Lanesborough, was contrite yesterday: "We had no idea it was their wedding night. We did give them some champagne and picked up the bill at the Halkin." The Halkin refused to comment on the matter but said: "It is not our policy to overbook."

● *Gone are the hedonistic days of the greatest rock and roll band in the world, the Rolling Stones. Among the list of catering provisions for the crew on its South African tour are 150 litres of milk*

UP THE BUNGERS... I MEAN GUNNERS



(mostly skimmed) and 2,000 litres of mineral water. Not a drop of alcohol in sight.

Press here

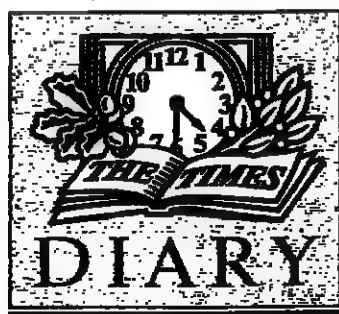
ELIZABETH SMITH, the widow of the late Labour leader, took another step back into public life yesterday when her name was put forward as a new member of the Press Complaints Commission.

The newly embowed Baroness Smith of Gilmorhill, 54, who was introduced to the House of Lords yesterday, will be appointed to the commission alongside Margaret Thatcher's press secretary, Sir Bernard Ingham. They will be paid an annual salary of £7,000.

Lord Wakeham, the new chairman of the commission, persuaded Lady Smith to join. He was a close friend of the late John Smith, as was Lord Irvine of Lairg, the Shadow Lord Chancellor, who is to reinforce the commission as a lay member.

Beeb boob

FOR ONE Ulster Unionist MP, it was not just the Anglo-Irish blueprint which soured the day. Ken Maginnis, the MP for Fermanagh and South Tyrone, was introduced on the BBC lunchtime news as his



arch-enemy — Sinn Féin's Martin McGuinness.

The BBC apologised, but matters deteriorated further when he was effectively hijacked between television studios in the West End and Westminster. "After I'd got in the taxi, the driver asked for my name and said he'd picked up the wrong person so he was returning to the studio," splutters Maginnis. "I said I was an MP and ordered him to take me to the Commons — but he ignored me."

The driver may have been fortunate to escape with merely a ticking-off. When in the Province, Maginnis carries a gun.

● *Conspiracy theorists complaining of left-wing bias in the BBC should know that Tony Blair is appointing Joy Johnson, the BBC's political news editor, as Labour's campaigns director — the job once*

filled by sharp-suited Peter Mandelson. Johnson voted for Margaret Beckett in the leadership contest.

Day job

IT HAD to happen one day. After 15 years of broadcasting a morning chat show, Terry Wogan overslept. Wake up to Wogan went on air at 7.30 without him. He was snoring under his duvet.

"I've been doing morning shows man and boy. This is the first time I've ever slept through," he said. "I forgot to set the alarm, which is not a very British thing to do. It could be the beginning of the end."

Presenter Sarah Kennedy held the fort until her yawning replacement arrived, but he couldn't have chosen a worse day. Someone had paid £5,000 in a Children in Need auction for the privilege of producing a show with Wogan — and she chose to turn up yesterday.

Off one's bike

MY NOTE yesterday about the Prince of Wales's penchant for pedal-power prompted a reader to send in this snapshot of an early attempt by his Royal Highness. He was clearly doomed to fail.

The occasion was a visit in 1973



Amazing saddles

to the National Trust's 17th-century house Erddig, near Wrexham, noted for an unusual collection of portraits of household staff, which the Prince's former valet, Ken Stronach, would surely enjoy.

His Royal Highness was trying to emulate Erddig's eccentric former owner, Philip Yorke, who rode his penny-farthing around the estate keeping his staff on their toes.

P.H.S

Janet Daley



■ If Governments didn't penalise it, the family could bounce back

WE who cry in the wilderness about the dismantling of family life can take comfort. We're still out in the cold, but at least we have more company. Even those who once refused to accept any link between the decline of marriage and social disorder are having second thoughts. A paper to be published this week by the Rowntree Foundation — *Family and Parenthood: Supporting Families, Preventing Breakdown* — acknowledges the "accumulated evidence" that children from broken homes are at greater risk of adverse educational, health and behavioural patterns than those from intact families. What is most welcome about this is that the report's author, David Utting, was endorsing quite the opposite view only two years ago.

Then, Mr Utting was one of many social policy researchers who maintained that an unhappy home with two parents was not preferable to a broken one that was "tranquil and loving". Mr Utting would probably still stand by that Jesuitical statement, but now he grants that would seem the obvious caveat: that single-parent households and divorce are likely to lead to poverty and instability. And tranquility and love are less likely to flourish in poor, unstable homes.

Thus, the report accepts the dangers inherent in the tension, single parenthood and an escalating divorce rate. What is more, it does not hesitate to blame punitive taxation for helping to destabilise family life and weaken marriage. Joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repents more than over ninety who never do. Mr Utting (not to mention the Rowntree Foundation) is welcome to the fold. Where once he said that there was little point in railing against marital breakdown because "you can't outlaw divorce", now he is providing useful evidence to demonstrate how much strain has been added to marriage and parenting by a taxation system which discriminates against married people with children. With the enthusiasm of a convert, he cites shocking figures: the tax take from a married couple with two children last year was 12.9 per cent higher than it would have been 30 years ago. But the increase on married and single men without children was only 8.2 and 5.5 per cent respectively. And the lower the income, the greater has been the proportional increase in a married couple's tax load.

So, in addition to the poverty towards which child-rearing tends to pull them, parents are also more heavily taxed — and the poorer they are, the more they are taxed. And the strain of that hardship is more likely to result in divorce which (as we all now admit) affects children badly.

The Rowntree Foundation's last contribution to the debate about poverty was roundly criticised for being politically tendentious. Its report too attacks the present Government, this time for hypocrisy about family values, but it also points out that the bluntness of discrediting marriage and penalising parenthood has been carried out by successive governments since the 1950s. The results are all around us: nearly one in three births currently occur outside marriage, as opposed to one in 12 in 1971. The proportion of such households headed by never-married mothers has grown from 10 to 7 per cent. Divorce has increased sixfold since 1961.

As the report says, society is becoming increasingly polarised between families with two earners and those with one. In other words, the only ways to survive economically are to have two incomes or to be totally dependent on benefits. Sadly, the report fails to see that the remedy for all this dislocation has to lie with the tax and benefits system that created it.

What it recommends is a programme of "preventive services": an umbrella of social work support not just for children officially "at risk" but for all who are potentially disadvantaged. That is to say the inability which has been created by tax penalties on permanent families and benefit incentives for impermanent ones should be met with a hugely intrusive and expensive programme of social surveillance — which would tend to undermine the integrity and self-sufficiency of the family even further. I think not. The state has undermined the family quite enough already.

OBITUARIES

ROBERT BOLT

Robert Bolt, CBE, dramatist and screenwriter, died at his Hampshire home on February 20 aged 70. He was born on August 15, 1924.

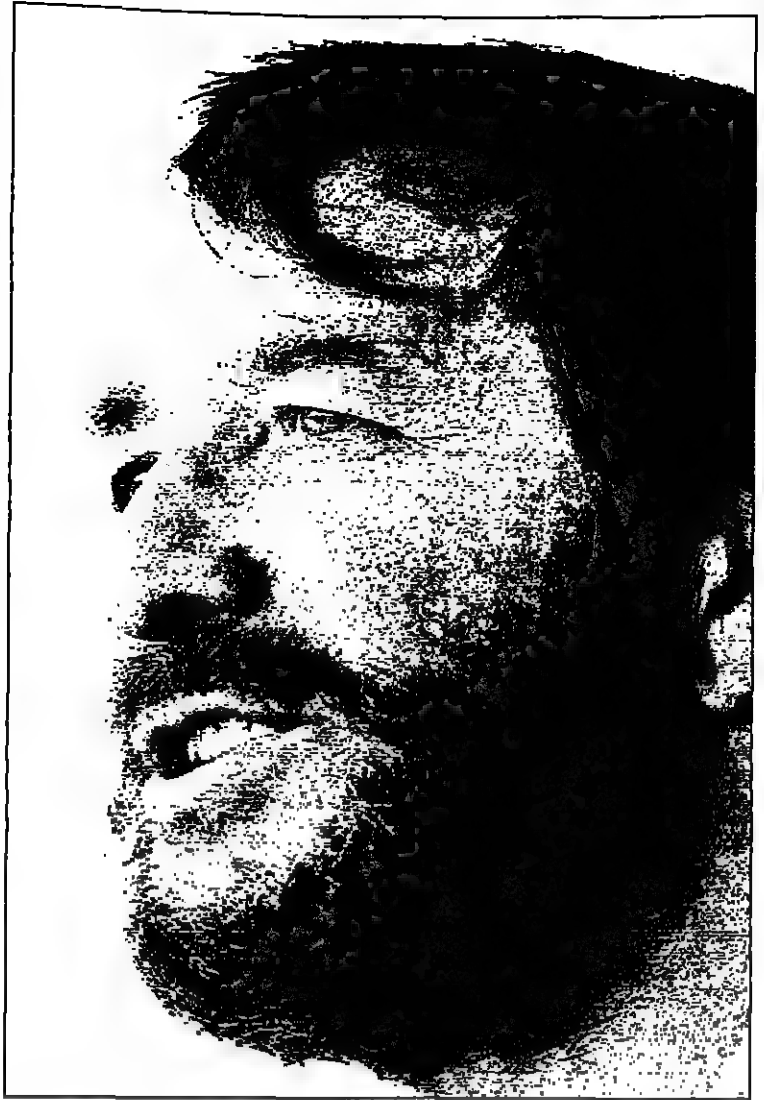
WITH its themes of personal integrity, responsibility and the use of power, admirably expounded in a star performance from Paul Scofield, *A Man for All Seasons* gave its author Robert Bolt a critical (if not immediately a commercial) success when it was staged at the Globe Theatre, London, in 1960. That the 1966 film, with Scofield again playing Sir Thomas More, should have been a triumph exceeding its stage precursor should have surprised no one.

From *A Man for All Seasons*'s beginnings as a radio play, Bolt had total control of his material. A professional to his fingertips, he was never one to fall in love with favourite lines or theatrical tricks when considering the transposition of his work from one medium to another. For the film, therefore, out, ruthlessly, went such stage devices as The Common Man, who had played the chorus in the theatrical version.

Bolt was to characterise *A Man for All Seasons* as "bastardised Brecht", a description not so much modest as self-aware. The play had employed Brecht-style mechanics without involving itself in anything approaching a rigorous Brechtian analysis of theory and practice in matters of belief. The fact was that Bolt formed a bridge between a slightly younger, more radical generation of writers — including John Osborne, Harold Pinter and Arnold Wesker, who had started to make their mark in the mid-1950s — and the West End theatre of the 1960s. His work occupied the fringes of the new drama, contenting itself with mild experiments in form. Essentially it fulfilled the demand of traditional theatre for solid, well-crafted entertainment.

In the cinema, too, he became associated with intelligently crafted historical epics. His involvement in films started when he was asked to polish the script for David Lean's *Lawrence of Arabia* and ended up writing an entirely new one. It was the start of a long partnership with Lean, which extended to *Dr Zhivago* (1965) and *Ryan's Daughter* (1970).

Robert Oxton Bolt was born in Manchester, where his father ran a glassware and furniture shop. As a child he tended to rebel against the prudent morality of this Northern upbringing; some of father's glassware went out of train windows onto railway lines; Bolt junior also indulged in a little mild shoplifting. At Manchester Grammar he was lazy



and had to be withdrawn from the school. The war was on and paternal indulgence to this dropping-out was hardly to be expected. Bolt was sent to work in an insurance office, where the job was so stultifying that he determined to pull himself together and cram for entrance to Manchester University. He got in, but by that time the call-up claimed him and from 1943 to 1946 he served, uneventfully enough, in the RAF and Army.

He went back to Manchester University in 1946 and took a degree in English in 1949. During and just after the war he was a member of the Communist Party. Disillusionment set in when he felt unable to equate Communism with democracy and freedom. But his political commitment continued to be broadly to the Left. He was a supporter of the Committee of 100 and went to prison briefly in 1961 (in the company of

Bertrand Russell) during a campaign of civil disobedience.

His first job was teaching in a village school near Exeter. His first essay in drama was a Nativity play for the village children. But country life turned out not to be the sylvan paradise he had imagined and he left to become an English master at Millfield School in 1952, staying until 1958. From teaching he was liberated by the success of *Flowering Cherry*, a play based on his experiences in insurance. For obvious reasons it was hailed as "Chekhovian" by critics. It was nothing of the sort, but was nevertheless well received at the Haymarket Theatre, London, when it was put on in 1958, with Sir Ralph Richardson as a self-deluding insurance clerk. This success enabled Bolt to become a full-time writer.

Prior to this Bolt had served an apprenticeship in radio. A notable

early piece was *The Drunken Sailor*, an allegorical drama which drew on the hardships of 18th-century seamen. Another radio play, *The Last of the Wine*, explored the reactions of a family when they hear that a hydrogen bomb is to be exploded over London. He graduated to the stage with *The Critic and the Heart* (1957) which went on at the Oxford Playhouse just before the West End success of *Flowering Cherry* emancipated him from the need to earn a living through teaching.

In 1960 his next two plays occupied neighbouring theatres (the Globe and the Queen's) in Shaftesbury Avenue. *A Man for All Seasons* proved to be the most enduring of Bolt's stage work, enjoying another long run in New York and regular revivals, apart from its translation to celluloid by Fred Zinnemann. The four Oscars it received included one for best film and another for Bolt as screenwriter.

Bolt's other 1960 play was *The Tiger and the Horse* which explored the gulf between the language of the mind and that of the heart. But its distinguished cast, which included Michael and Vanessa Redgrave, could not guarantee it the success of the play at the Globe. *Gentle Jack* (1963) featured Dame Edith Evans as an empress of industry, a character sketched with conscious echoes of Queen Elizabeth I. Showing the intrusion of an English Pan into the life of an inhibited accountant, it was Bolt's most ambitious play but probably his least effective.

By now Bolt was alternating between the stage and the cinema. His screenplay for *Lawrence of Arabia* was a conscientious attempt to explain its subject's enigmatic character, but after almost four hours this sprawling epic left no much the wiser. Nevertheless, the film was handsomely mounted and well received, and Bolt's script got him an Academy Award nomination.

Dr Zhivago (1965), a frank reduction of the classic to the middlebrow, was another popular success. Bolt's screenplay was intended to emphasise the romantic side of Pasternak's novel. But the compression of the book for the purposes of a box-office hit militated against much in the way of coherence and the film failed to match its source's richness and complexity — though it was good to look at. It also brought Bolt his first Oscar.

As light relief Bolt wrote a play for children, *The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew*, premiered by the Royal Shakespeare Company during its 1965 Christmas season. A tale of magic and talking animals it had a strong plot and a firm moral. He

returned to the 16th century with *Vivat Vivat Regina!* (1969), a study of the relationship between Elizabeth I and Mary Queen of Scots. Bolt had intended the role of Mary Queen of Scots to provide a dominating role for his wife Sarah Miles. But he overwrote it to the extent that on stage the Queen Elizabeth of Eileen Atkins, given much sparer more effective dialogue, made off with the honours.

There were signs in *Vivat* that Bolt was finding difficulty in escaping from the historical imperatives of such a well-known period, and the same could be said of *State of Revolution* (1977), a play about the Russian Revolution and its aftermath. This saw Stalin as a monster whom Lenin had created but was unable to control but, technically impressive though it was, it came over very much as a reworking of familiar material.

Bolt's third film with Lean, *Ryan's Daughter*, was an original screenplay charting a love affair in Ireland against the background of the 1916 Troubles. A small subject stretched out to excessive length, it was savaged by the critics. But it found its audience. Bolt's directorial debut with *Lady Caroline Lamb* (1972), which he also wrote, showed that he had absorbed some of Lean's polish. But the result, with Sarah Miles in the name part, was fundamentally lifeless. In that same year he was appointed CBE.

In 1979, while working with Lean on a film script about the Mutiny on the Bounty, Bolt suffered a near-fatal stroke which left him paralysed down his right side and took away his power of speech. But after a long struggle he was able to return to work, revising his script for *The Bounty* (1984) which was made by another director, Roger Donaldson.

The Mission (1986), another foray into history for which Bolt wrote the script, examined the conflict between South American Indians and Jesuit missionaries. The combined glamour of Robert De Niro and Jeremy Irons could not, alas, redeem the result from earnest tedium. A collaboration with Lean on an adaptation of Joseph Conrad's *Nostromo* was interrupted by Lean's death in 1991.

Bolt's first marriage, to Celia Ann Roberts, by whom he had a son and two daughters, was dissolved in 1966. In 1967 he married the actress Sarah Miles, by whom he had a son. They divorced in 1975. His third marriage, to Ann Zane, was dissolved in 1985. Three years later he remarried Sarah Miles who had moved back to live with and care for him after his stroke. He is survived by her and by their son, and by the children of his first marriage.

ELIZABETH DACRE



Elizabeth Dacre inspecting an RAF guard

Elizabeth Dacre, MBE, charity worker and former officer with the WAAF, died in Rottingdean, Sussex, on February 12 aged 93. She was born in South Africa on March 6, 1901.

ELIZABETH DACRE — known to friends as Betty — devoted her long life to the services and to service charities. In her own life she knew personal loss in two world wars: her brother had been blinded on the Somme; her only son died in the Second World War while serving with the RAF.

For all that, she was indefatigable in her support of the services. She believed in going straight to the top, and if she wanted something from someone — money, time or commitment — she was quite unstoppable. Her energies were mostly devoted to the WAAF during the Second World War and to St Dunstan's — the charity for blind ex-servicemen and women — after it. In this, she followed in the footsteps of her brother, Lord Fraser of Lonsdale, the former Conservative MP and the chairman of St Dunstan's for 53 years.

Elizabeth Frances Fraser, as she was born, was the granddaughter of William Fraser from Ipswich, a close friend of Richard Cobden and John Bright who led the campaign against the Corn Laws. Her father, William Percy Fraser, emigrated to South Africa with two brothers, and played an important part in developing Johannesburg.

She was born in a cattle-truck travelling through the South African veldt from Johannesburg to Natal during the Boer War. She returned to England as a teenager to finish her education and to help take care of her brother Ian, later Lord Fraser of Lonsdale. He was then himself at St Dunstan's (where he first met the nurse who became his wife in 1918). It was at around the same time that Elizabeth met her own future husband, George Dacre, who had shared a Turkish POW camp with her cousin. They were married in 1921.

She spent the next 16 years supporting her husband in his service and diplomatic careers. With war threatening, she enlisted with the Women's Emergency Service in 1937

and transferred the following year to the Auxiliary Territorial Service as a cook. By the end of 1939, she transferred to the Women's Auxiliary Air Force (WAAF) as a squadron officer, retiring in 1948 with the rank of group officer.

Her life during the war was one of constant travel as staff officer and adviser to the Commander-in-Chief Fighter Command on all matters relating to the employment of women within his command. There was one memorable dispute in 1943 when the barrage balloons — which were operated by the WAAF — were being phased out. The women who had been responsible for them were told they must all retrain as flight mechanics. Outraged by the decision, fifty of them locked themselves into the women's lavatories, and slept on the cold tiled floors until such time as Elizabeth had organised a settlement with the Air Ministry.

Her husband retired from the RAF in 1948 and became commandant of St Dunstan's at Ottingdean. After he died in 1963 Elizabeth found that the best way through the grief of widowhood was more hard work. She devoted more energy to the Brighton magistrates bench and twice visited India and Japan with groups of JPs. She was an active prison visitor, and much involved with the Royal British Legion, its Poppy Day and the RAF Benevolent Fund. In the village of Rottingdean, where she spent the past 45 years, she supported the annual fair, the local Scout troop and the establishment of Forge House, which contained six flats for ex-servicemen and women. She was appointed MBE in 1973.

With the loss of her family, St Dunstan's in Brighton became her home, and her particular concern there was the group of handless ex-servicemen and women. Only last September she was in charge of a tiring day out for this group at Buckingham Palace. She was fearless as a money-raiser — the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Royal Family were both successfully enlisted for support — but self-deprecating about her own importance in the charity's hierarchy. She liked to say that her main use was washing up at the club's events.

ALAN TAYLER

Alan Tayler, CBE, Fellow and Tutor in Mathematics at St Catherine's College, Oxford, died of cancer on January 29 aged 63. He was born on September 5, 1931.

POSSIBLY Alan Tayler's greatest service to British mathematics was to set up in 1967 a series of study groups with industry. These continue today and have spread all over the world. In 1984 he helped to form the European Consortium for Mathematics and Industry and was its president in 1989-90.

A founding Fellow of St

Catherine's College, he was also involved in launching the Oxford Centre for Industrial and Applied Mathematics and became its director. He was appointed CBE in 1993.

Born in Mitcham, Surrey, Alan Tayler went up to Brasenose College to read mathematics, having been a scholar at King's College School, Wimbledon, and having done his National Service in the radar and electronics division of REME.

At Brasenose he gained a first in both mathematics moderations and in the final honour school. He went on to gain his DPhil in mathematical aerodynamics under the

supervision of Professor George Temple.

In 1959 he was appointed a tutor at St Catherine's College, the body which preceded the emergence of St Catherine's College as a full college of the university in 1962. Under the direction of Lord Bullock and Fellows such as Alan Tayler, the new college soon secured a very strong reputation in both pure and applied mathematics.

Taylor was an accomplished mathematician who was able to generate strong enthusiasm for the subject among his undergraduate pupils and his research students. He was awarded the Gold Medal of the Institute of

Mathematics and its Applications. His international standing in mathematics was confirmed by visiting professorships at Harvard in 1965 and Cornell in 1978.

Taylor was a model tutorial Fellow. He took great pains with his pupils and assumed immense administrative burdens in the college, serving as Dean, Vice-Master and Finance Bursar. He played a major role in setting up the St Catherine's College Kober Institute, an Anglo-Japanese foundation to facilitate academic work and exchanges.

Rugby union was his passion and for more than 30 years he played a central role

in the development of the Oxford University Rugby Club. He held the club together during a serious financial crisis when he became its treasurer in 1974; he initiated important improvements to the Ilfeld Road grounds; and he ultimately became president of the club. The Varsity Match was a highlight of his year and he was able to attend last year's match despite being in acute pain.

Alan Tayler will be remembered for his vision, energy, judgment and unflinching good humour. He is survived by his wife June, whom he married in 1955, and by three of their four daughters.



GEORGE STIBITZ

George Robert Stibitz, inventor of the digital computer, died at his home in Hanover, New Hampshire, on January 31 aged 90. He was born in York, Pennsylvania, on April 30, 1904.

WITH a primitive experiment on his kitchen table in 1937, George Stibitz changed the world. Using dry-cell torch batteries, metal strips cut from a tobacco tin, and flashlight bulbs soldered to wires from two telephone relays, he constructed a "binary adder". From that humble device, a replica of which is now on display in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, sprang the whole generation

of today's computers and the basis of the information revolution.

At the time of his first experiment Stibitz was working as a research mathematician at the Bell Telephone Laboratories. Together with a Bell switching engineer, Samuel Williams, he proceeded to expand his device into a practical computer which began operating in 1940. Although huge and clumsy by today's standards, the "Model I Complex Calculator" could solve problems faster than a hundred human operators with mechanical desk calculators.

Addressing a meeting of the American Mathematical Society at Dartmouth College,

New Hampshire, he sent problems by teletype to his computer which was running unattended 250 miles away at the Bell Laboratories in New York City. The answers returned in seconds.

Stibitz and Williams then began to work on increasingly powerful computers which were put to use by the United States military in the Second World War, during which Stibitz was attached to the Office of National Defence.

In 1945 he became a private consultant, helping businesses and government agencies to solve various problems, but he never abandoned his computer experiments. In 1954 he contrived a desk-sized electronic digital computer which

was to be the forerunner of present-day minicomputers, and ultimately held 38 patents in his own right.

Joining the faculty of Dartmouth Medical College in 1964, Stibitz changed his focus to bio-medicine, applying computer science to such subjects as the motion of oxygen through the lungs, renal excretion processes, brain cell anatomy, the diffusion of nutrients and drugs in the body, and a mathematical model of capillary transport. He formally retired in 1974, but continued his research for a further decade.

George Stibitz is survived by his wife Dorothea, whom he married in 1930, and two daughters.

ages, many teen (some of them young enough to have been born within the Revolution), boys and girls, and a few children. These last were very well behaved, considering the length of the liturgy.

All the time the soul-stirring singing went on. For two-and-a-half hours it held its triumphant course, with only one break of five minutes when a priest gave an explanation of the liturgy, in modern Russian. It was then that two young things sitting quietly on the floor near us took a little relaxation, the younger girl arranging a fancy comb in her companion's hair.

To the eye the ritual was a colourful presentation of something majestic and venerable. The Patriarch looked like a prophet: while his gold mitre and beautiful vestments constantly being changed upon him told an underlying tale of trembling devotion that had saved these treasures from the morning rays of the Revolution. And all the time while one watched fascinated there sounded the fine singing of the great choir.

It was unaccompanied. The choir stood in two galleries, one for the men, the other for the women, each with its own conductor. They sang with a dramatic force that conveyed even to our untuned ears the enunciation of spiritual truths...

GOING TO CHURCH IN MOSCOW

FROM A CORRESPONDENT

While the sky over Moscow, for its advent of snow, was putting on shades of darkest grey, making the pinks and yellows of innumerable new buildings look strangely bright; while in the Red Square companies of teen-agers, brisk and cheerful, were rehearsing for the celebrations of November 7, drilling with hoola-hoops in pretty patterns; and while factories, caught up by the expanding city, smoked busily and all the shops were active, the deep-toned bell of the cathedral was sending out an old, old summons.

It was Sunday. And we were going to church. We were in Moscow as the guests of the Academy of Sciences, and as there is no kinder host than a Russian we were being taken to do something that we wished. But there were obviously many Russians who had had a similar desire, for the interior of the cathedral was packed with what cannot adequately be expressed by the word "crowd", our older word "press" would be better.

There was no space taken up by chairs. For the two-and-a-half hours of the service the congregation stood, except when they went

ON THIS DAY

February 23 1961

At the time this visit to Moscow cathedral was made, the State, treating the building as a city monument, paid for the upkeep of its fabric, but the congregation had to pay for the maintenance of its religious life.

down on their knees. The congregation was very interesting. Right at the front were obviously the most devout — oldish, peasant-looking people in drab head-shawls, shapeless padded clothing, and boots that made their legs resemble logs. They must have come very early to gain their position of vantage: perhaps they needed space for their manner of religious exercise — they didn't just kneel but bowed themselves down to the very floor.

The rest of the congregation was a representative one. There were women of all

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

D. No eyes more full with tears. No heart more deep with sorrow. No mind more full with grief. No soul more full with pain. No life more full with love. No death more full with hope. No resurrection more full with glory. No heaven more full with bliss. No hell more full with torment. No judgment more full with justice. No mercy more full with compassion. No forgiveness more full with understanding. No peace more full with harmony. No love more full with unity. No life more full with purpose. No death more full with meaning. No resurrection more full with hope. No heaven more full with bliss. No hell more full with torment. No judgment more full with justice. No mercy more full with compassion. No forgiveness more full with understanding. No peace more full with harmony. No love more full with unity. No life more full with purpose. No death more full with meaning. No resurrection more full with hope. No heaven more full with bliss. No hell more full with torment. 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Wanted for dinnertime: 35,000 genuine books

LONDON'S biggest hotel group, the Thistle and Mount Charlotte Hotel chains, which has 24 properties and more than 6,500 rooms between them, is to spend £50 million in the next two years to upgrade its hotels in the capital. Leading the way is a £3 million refurbishment of the National Liberal Club building in Whitehall.

The mahogany-panelled Gladstone Library, built more than a century ago, is being transformed into a banquet hall for 1,200 people. Thistle, however, apparently has a problem: finding about 35,000 authentic books to line the library shelves. The original books were transferred to Bristol University in 1977.

Thistle also has an Easter offer for its seven country-house hotels, ranging from the newly refurbished Shelley's Hotel in Lewes, East Sussex, to New Hall in Sutton Coldfield. Breaks for dinner, bed and breakfast are £150 a person for three nights. Details 0800 181 716.

Quick reply

HILTON International has launched a centralised booking service for UK conferences with a low-cost phone number and a guarantee of getting back to organisers within 60 minutes with details of facilities available. Details: 0845 314151.

Lot of bottle

BUSINESS travellers staying at the Holiday Inn hotels at Birmingham and Leeds from March until the end of May will be given a bottle of Scotch or gin on arrival. The promotion, available to members of the Holiday Inns Priority Club for frequent executive guests, will mark the upgrading of the hotels to Crowne Plaza status, the group's top brand.

Leisure guests at 22 Holiday Inns throughout Britain can also take advantage of a special weekend rate during March under the Spring's Early promotion. Rates start at £39 a room in a twin in towns such as Aylesbury and Warrington and up to £69 a night for the hotels in Mayfair or Oxford Circus. Prices include accommodation and breakfast for up

ROOM SERVICE

to two adults and two children under 12 sharing their parents' room. Details: 0800 997 121.

Music to the ears

THE French group Concorde Hotels has a special package to coincide with the International Music Festival at Evian, France, from May 25 to June 4. Four nights at the luxury Hotel Ermitage, including tickets for the concert, a buffet supper later and full use of the hotel's golf and leisure facilities, start at £1,000 (about £120) a person. Details: 0800 181 591.



66D

Hefty cuts

SMALL companies that want the room discounts given to large organisations are being targeted by a corporate hotels reservations agency called First Option. The company is an offshoot of the 15 Thomas Cook Hotel Desks that operate at British airports and railway stations and offer hefty discounts for travellers prepared to leave it to the last minute for a room. The same strategy, but with extra services, such as providing a monthly management information report on hotel bookings, is the basis for the new company. Details: 0345 110011.

Cheaper world

MORE hotel discounts are promised by the 1995 Internet preferred-rate hotel directory, which claims to have rates at up to 51 per cent

off published prices at 1,385 hotels worldwide. The Internet rates (nothing to do with the computerised information network) are available only through independent business travel agents. In Britain, the Internet member is Gray Dawes. It handles the travel arrangements for many City blue-chip institutions. Details: 0800 562 168.

Special sounds

MUSIC lovers can take advantage of a special weekend offer from the Hyatt Regency in Birmingham to hear orchestras such as the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Black Dyke Mills Band at the International Conference Centre's Symphony Hall. The hotel is linked to the centre by a glass footbridge.

The Hyatt weekend deal is £110 a night for two people sharing a room, including a pre-concert dinner, a full English breakfast and overnight parking.

The usual rate is £122 a night and breakfast, for example, usually costs £11 a head. Details: 0121-643 1234.

Hang about

WOMEN Aware was set up six months ago by Expotel, a hotel-reservations agency, to gather information from women business travellers about their treatment in hotels. Preliminary findings support the initial belief that women remain worried by lack of security and inferior service, although one in four complained that no skirt hangers were available in the hotels they used.

A "hit-list" of the best and worst hotels for women is to be produced soon.

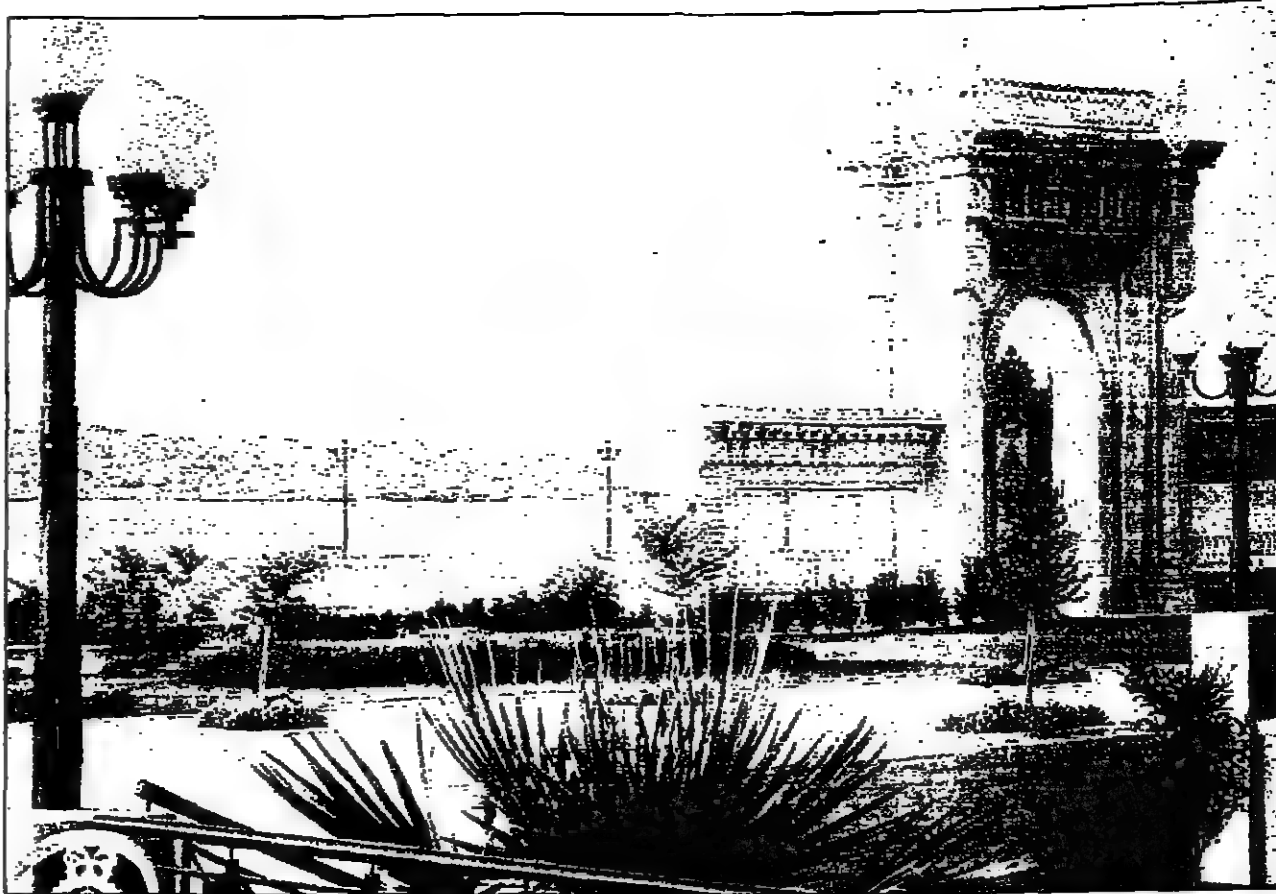
Suite treat

GLASGOW'S Malmaison Hotel, which opened recently in a converted Victorian church in the city's financial district, is offering upgrades to suites during March when available. Prices start from £70 a night.

The hotel's brasserie and café bar have already become stylish additions to the Glasgow restaurant scene. Details: 0141-221 6400.

DAVID CHURCHILL

Brian MacArthur on a new holiday that builds a Turkey-Greece link



The Bosphorus gate of the Ciragan Palace Hotel, once the summer residence of the last Ottoman sultan

United by tourism

As Greece and Turkey, two age-old enemies, continue their bickering over Cyprus and a customs union between Turkey and the European Union, a unique holiday combining tours of both countries was launched in Istanbul last weekend.

The initiative stems from a liaison between Ali Barchman, managing director of Savile Row Tours, London, and Lorenzo Argenti, based in Milan and owner of the 14th-century Villa Argenti in Chios, a Greek island eight miles from the Turkish coast.

From May, Savile Row will offer a holiday that combines three days in Istanbul, four nights on Chios — which is known for its ancient buildings and deserted beaches — and three nights in Turkey at Kusadasi, near Ephesus.

It has been an ambition of Mr Barchman and Signor Argenti for several years to get their clients from Turkey to Greece or Greece to Turkey without the aggravation that usually faces the traveller crossing borders. Until now, the normal route for Signor Argenti's clients was to fly 150 miles back to Athens for their return flight to London, al-

though the Turkish airport at Izmir is only a few miles from Chios.

It has taken Mr Barchman, a Ukrainian-Turk, and Signor Argenti, a Genoese nobleman, to succeed where the Greeks and Turks have so far failed.

Signor Argenti, whose family has been associated with Chios since 1546, says that there is at present a view among tourists that they go either to Greece or Turkey but not to both. Most do not bother because crossing land or island frontiers is difficult.

"Once people start going to both Greece and Turkey on their holiday," he says, "offi-

als may see that it is in their interest to start settling their differences and to open borders for exchanges of visitors. Tourism could be a start towards friendlier attitudes between the two countries."

At a minimum of £1,399 a person, Savile Row's tour is aimed deliberately at an up-market clientele — but its clients will see Turkey and Greece in style. In Istanbul, they will stay at the Ciragan Palace Hotel, once the summer residence of the last Ottoman sultan. The Villa Argenti consists of three villas in five acres of orange groves and Italian gardens.

Glasgow's the best place for croissants

Egon Ronay has found tasty meals at BAA airports.

Egon Ronay, veteran critic of British public catering, has found some winners among the 120 restaurants, snack bars and pubs at BAA airports.

Over the past three years, Mr Ronay and his team of inspectors have tested more than 16,500 items of food and drink at BAA airport catering outlets, devoting 14,000 hours to their researches and writing more than 2,000 detailed reports.

At an awards ceremony at Claridge's in London this week, Mr Ronay announced that, to his surprise, the lightest croissant from the Granary Restaurant in Glasgow, equalled the best in Paris, and that the cappuccino from Häagen-Dazs at Heathrow was as authentic as one would find in Italy.

Other awards went to Café Select at Edinburgh airport for the "most exciting sandwich" (a mozzarella and oregano ciabatta), Steffi at Heathrow for the "lightest Danish pastry" and Brophy's Restaurant, Aberdeen, for the "friendliest service".

The "best traditional cooked breakfast" produced a tie between the Shakespeare Ale House at Gatwick and Garfunkel's, Heathrow, and the best vegetarian main course was broccoli conchiglietti from Wetherspoons, Heathrow.

Mr Ronay recruited five of the country's top chefs — Michel Roux, Raymond Blanc, Anton Edelmann, Michel Boudin and Will Elsen — to present the awards, and Sir John Egan, the chief executive of BAA, declared that the "greasy spoon image of airport catering" was now a thing of the past.

"BAA's terminals at Heathrow and Gatwick took the top six places in a recent passenger survey on catering in 18 international airport terminals," he told the audience proudly.

ROBIN YOUNG

Caravans go green

to the success of caravan parks. If the park is unsightly, business will also suffer.

The board has singled out for special praise: Kelling Heath Holiday Park near Sheringham, Norfolk, which set up a nature trail and fitness route for visitors and joggers, and a map pinpointing the park's popu-

lation of roe deer, unusual trees, pond, butterflies and heath; and at Bashley Park in the New Forest, a mini recycling centre for paper, glass, plastics and cans has been a big success.

In 1993, caravanners accounted for 18 per cent of all holiday spending in England, £1.4 billion. A total of 23 per

cent (47.3 million) of all holiday nights taken in England in the same year was spent in caravans. 5 per cent (10.3 million) in tents and a further 5 per cent in holiday camps.

The guide suggests a few simple steps to make parks more attractive: making best use of the sun, the creation of small private spaces, privacy and screening and avoiding long, straight lines of roads.

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VICEROY AIR INTERNATIONAL

Unlike southerners, Mancunians are desperate to reap the benefits of their airport's proposed £170 million runway expansion plan

Next week Britain's centre of gravity may just begin to shift gradually — but inexorably — northwards. On Friday March 3 Kenneth Smith, who has spent the last year sitting in a depressing public hall in Wythenshawe, Greater Manchester, listening to arcane arguments about airport development, will begin to write his report into whether that city's airport should have a second runway.

Unlike most people in the South East — whose intense dislike of airports such as Heathrow and Gatwick is tempered only when they want to fly from somewhere convenient to their home or office — most Mancunians actually want a new runway to be built and clamour for more, not less, investment in their airport.

They are, according to all the

Why Manchester is reaching for the sky

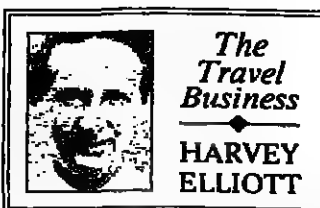
market research, genuinely proud of Manchester's growing role as the transport hub of the North. Already more than a third of all British holiday flights leave from Manchester airport. It handles more than 15 million passengers, 94 airlines, 274 tour operators and 165 long and short-haul destinations in every continent. It is by plans to spend a further £525 million over the next ten years, it wants to handle 30 million passengers a year on more than double the number of airlines and flights.

Naturally, there are opponents to further growth, especially among the crunchy gravel drives

of Cheshire. But the main opposition is coming from other airports, such as Liverpool, whose councils and residents believe that they, and not the rival Mancunians, should get the benefits which will inevitably flow from the creation of additional jobs and the influx of high-spending foreign businessmen and tourists.

Those in favour of the plan, put forward by the ten local authorities which own Manchester airport, are fed up with having to travel down south to catch long-distance holiday or business flights.

Mr Smith has received 10,000 letters of support for the £170 million runway project and 2,500



against. During the public inquiry it became obvious, however, that many of those opposing the scheme have very powerful voices. With Heathrow and Gatwick effectively full, Stansted struggling to attract custom and cities on the European mainland determined to cash in, the Manchester proposal

appears to be one way in which the spiralling demand for air travel to and from Britain can fully be met. Manchester has until now found it hard to attract enough foreign carriers to enable the airport to develop into a true "hub" with dozens of small services feeding from the giants on international routes.

But there are signs that this is changing. Already trucks routinely head up the M1 from the Home Counties to link in with Manchester's fast-growing freight services to the rest of the world. As the message spreads, can passengers be far behind?

Many of the South's army of

"Nimbys" would cheer Mr Smith if he recommended that the new runway be given the go-ahead in the belief that as Manchester grew Heathrow would diminish in size. But BAA, Heathrow's owner, also backs the development of Manchester because, it argues, even if London's airport expands to its maximum possible size the regional airports will also have to grow to cope with demand.

The breakthrough depends largely on the image which Manchester manages to create in the minds of foreign travellers in the United States, the Far East and mainland Europe.

airport they all know. It is the world's biggest international airport with hundreds of connecting flights enabling a third of all its customers to transfer from one aircraft to another without even setting foot in Britain itself.

It is that perception of Manchester as a world hub which is still missing. So foreigners matter just as much as local holidaymakers and businessmen.

If Kenneth Smith does recommend the development of a second runway, the battle for the hearts and minds of those foreign travellers can begin. Millions of youngsters from the North of England and Scotland will be also given a guarantee that when they, too, have families of their own they will be able to travel where they want from the airport of their choice.

Oh won't you stay just a little bit longer?

BUSINESS travellers are being urged to spend a weekend relaxing in their hotels at the beginning or end of foreign working trips — to save their company money, writes Harvey Elliott.

Airlines and hotels, anxious to fill more seats during normally slack weekends, now routinely cut the price of a return ticket or room by as much as 50 per cent if the stay includes a Saturday night. It is therefore often cheaper for businessmen and women to tack on a weekend away with their partner rather than spend the time at home before dashing off to catch a busy Monday morning flight and return later in the week.

A British Midland return flight to Brussels from London, for example, now costs £190 in mid week but drops to £78 if it includes a Saturday night stay.

A weekday night in the Waldorf Hotel in London costs £185 for a single room plus £13.50 for breakfast whereas two can stay in the same hotel for a total of £139 including breakfast at the weekend. A single room in the Grand Hyatt in New York costs \$205 (about £133) per night during the week whereas a double costs £159 at the weekend.

Douglas Geaga, president of the Hyatt Hotels Corporation, said that nearly 75 per cent of business travellers within the United States now routinely tack on "time for themselves" at the end of their trip to take advantage of the rates and the idea is spreading

The cheapest business flights home could now take in a weekend break for two

fast in Europe. "The distinction between business and leisure travel is becoming increasingly blurred," he said. "Many now bring briefcases and personal computers on holiday or swimming costumes and running shoes on business trips."

"People are living increasingly busy lives and have to mix business with pleasure. The smart ones are saving themselves and their company

The line between business and leisure travel is becoming blurred

money at the same time." Many cost-conscious corporations and companies who have begun to realise just how much they can save on their travel budgets now openly encourage, or even insist that their employees stay on and relax or travel early to their meetings and settle in beforehand.

Such trips — particularly popular this month as romantic couples celebrated Valen-

tine's Day — can be even cheaper if one person flies free under one of the many frequent flyer programmes.

At least 40 million unused airline tickets are now outstanding under the schemes which in general reward frequent flyers with "miles" or "points" every time they buy a ticket. Once they have accumulated so many points they can redeem them for a free ticket.

Airlines are becoming so worried about the rapid growth of the frequent flyer schemes that they are trying to raise the limits originally imposed — only to meet fierce opposition from consumers, some of whom are taking them to court in America.

Most airlines give the benefit direct to the actual traveller rather than to his or her company, leading to a worldwide debate over possible tax liability for this "perk". The spectre of the taxman is, however, now looming large. About 9 per cent of companies now insist that their employees return their frequent flyer points and make them available for future business travel. The companies now demanding that business travellers hand back their benefits claim to have saved between 12 to 15 per cent on their overall business travel costs as a result.

But the vast majority of businesses are prepared to turn a blind eye — and allow their high-flying employees the opportunity of a weekend break while saving on their travel budget at the same time.



Airlines are making it your business to spend more time away enjoying other cities

TRAVEL BRIEFING

Billion-dollar business

TRAVEL and tourism in Western Europe is likely to be worth \$1.146 billion (about £764 billion) this year, 34 per cent of the total spent on what is now the world's biggest industry. The second-biggest market is North America, which will generate about \$956 billion and third is Asia and the Pacific with \$804 billion. By 2005, however, says the World Travel and Tourism Council, Asia will have leapt into second place.

Flying towards trouble

THE stupidity of some airline passengers is astonishing. In the past 12 months, airlines have found a camping stove containing fuel in passengers' cabin baggage; a hand-held smoke gun, five smoke canisters and three gas cylinders, one of which was leaking; in a holdall; a canister of methylated spirits and children playing with unlit fireworks during a flight. One passenger's bags contained 40 kilograms of live rifle ammunition. Now the Civil Aviation Authority has produced a leaflet, *Travelling Safely*, explaining that it might be dangerous to take such things on a plane.

Young holiday planners

"PESTER power" — persistent nagging by the young — has meant that a third of children between the ages of seven and 14 have a say in the choice of family holidays. The camping specialist Eurocamp says that a MORI poll it commissioned shows that six out of ten families will have been persuaded to choose a holiday by the sea. Once on vacation, "staying up late" is the fun priority for nine out of ten little ones. Second favourite pastime is swimming and third is "disco grooving". Museum visits come way down the list.

Wild in Africa

RICHARD Bonham, the East Africa guide famous for his walking safaris in the Selous National Park, has built a permanent lodge, the Sand Rivers Selous, in Tanzania with cottages overlooking the river. A 14-day safari starts at £2,450 a person based on two people sharing, including return flights, all accommodation at tented camps and hotels and most meals. Details: Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions (0171 381 8638).

Historical Easter

BRITISH Museum Tours (0171 323 8895) has two breaks at Easter: Minoans and Mycenaeans to Crete and the Greek mainland from the department of Greek and Roman Antiquities, departing April 7 for 16 days at a cost of £1,692; and Petra for eight days, departing on April 14 for £1,048.

Mystical voyages

ONE of the world's great cruises, the Norwegian Coastal Voyage (0171-371 4011), is relaunched this week, with a new company to promote the trip. More than a century after the journey started as a link for residents in remote areas, it has become a big earner for Norway's tourist industry. The 11-day trip from Bergen in the south to Kirkenes near the northern Russian border costs from £951 to £2,813, including flights to and from Bergen.

Amsterdam and other bargains

A WEEKEND in Amsterdam is on offer for £129 a person, including return scheduled flights from Gatwick and two nights at the three-star Rembrandt Hotel. Available until the end of March from Flight Bookers (0171-757 2000). Thomas Cook is offering seven nights in Tunisia with First Choice holidays from Gatwick on a bed and breakfast basis for £169, and to Fuerteventura from East Midlands in a self-catering apartment for £219. And Gatwick to New York midweek return fares starting at £170 until March 31 are available from the Air Travel Advisory Bureau. Heathrow to Johannesburg is £452 return.

TRAVEL IN THE TIMES

● Tomorrow: Enjoy the pleasures of Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague, the bulb fields or the Dutch Frisian islands in a special 16-page Passport to Holland published with *The Times*.

● Weekend on Saturday: Libby Purves goes to the British Virgin Islands; Doone Beale in Mykonos and Santorini; John Young goes skiing at 60; Stephen Brook in Oporto; Robin Neillands in Portsmouth

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160 jobs go as airline closes

EURO DIRECT, a small but highly regarded British regional scheduled airline, has been forced to close because of spiralling landing and handling costs at airports in mainland Europe, Harvey Elliott writes.

Euro Direct operates daily flights to Paris, Amsterdam, Brussels, Hamburg, Dublin and other European cities from Bournemouth, Stansted, Exeter and Humberside, but is to cease trading on Sunday.

Neil Hansford, the airline's managing director, bitterly attacked what he claimed were "unfair" European regulations which, he said, had led to the closure of the airline and the loss of more than 160 jobs.

"We are all supposed to allow competition between airport handlers but only British airports do it. In Paris, for example, there is one handling company and one dominant airline — Air France. Charges are sky high and, on any given flight, we have to find £2,000 to pay the landing and handling charges. This is around £40 per passenger. As we only get £100 net return fare from Bournemouth it does not leave much profit margin," he said.

Simon Tudor of the European Regional Airlines Association said that navigation, landing and ground handling costs in Europe had led to "horrendous problems" for smaller regional airlines. Brian Mawhinney, the Secretary of State for Transport, told more than 250 leading figures from the British aviation industry on Tuesday that he will continue to fight for an end to illiberal practices throughout Europe.

Book with care

Many of Britain's holidaymakers are still in danger of being swindled out of their money or stranded abroad by unboned cowboy tour operators, the industry claims, writes Marianne Curphy.

The warning comes as the head of a travel company which collapsed, leaving 40,000 holidaymakers stranded and owing more than £12 million, begins a nine-month jail sentence for fraud.

The Association of British Travel Agents (Abta) says it knows of around 4,000 operators who are abiding by new package holiday laws introduced in December 1992. An estimated 16,000-26,000 others may be operating lawfully, but the system is so difficult to police that this is by no means certain.

At Bristol Crown Court on February 10, Mr Tjolle, 50, chairman of Bath-based Land Travel — which specialised in cut-price coach tours to Czechoslovakia, Austria, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Holland — admitted two charges of fraudulent trading. He knew his firm was insolvent three months before its collapse in 1992 but continued to sell cheap coach tours abroad, the court heard.

The Association of British Travel Agents advises holidaymakers to buy packages from operators who are bonded with one of the travel organisations. These include Abta, the Civil Aviation Authority's ATOL scheme, the Bus and Coach Council, the Passenger Shipping Association, and the Association of Independent Tour Operators (AITO).

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NEWS

Cautious welcome for Ulster plan

John Major's gamble for peace in Northern Ireland appeared to have passed its first crucial test as he rode the expected Unionist backlash against the London-Dublin plan for the future of the Province.

A fierce reaction among Ulster Protestant politicians to the framework document failed to derail the search for a constitutional settlement. Pages 1, 16, 17

Tony Blair, the Labour leader, told MPs that "the house of peace" had stayed shut and locked in Northern Ireland for too many years. Page 2

Loyalist politicians with links to Protestant paramilitaries reacted cautiously to the document. Gerry Adams, the President of Sinn Féin, gave it a guarded welcome. Page 3

The Prime Minister also announced plans for a new Northern Ireland Assembly. Pages 4, 5

Prescriptions up

Prescription charges are to rise by 50p — from £4.75 to £5.25 — from April 1, the Government has announced. The 10.5 per cent rise is more than three times the rate of inflation. Page 1

Robert Bolt dies

Robert Bolt, who wrote the screenplays of *Dr Zhivago*, *Lawrence of Arabia* and *A Man For All Seasons*, died on Monday at his home in Hampshire. He was 70. Pages 1, 19

Fry quits play

The actor Stephen Fry has pulled out of Simon Gray's new play *Cell Mates* for "personal reasons", just three days after the production opened. Neither his agent nor the theatre know where he is. Page 6

Bereaved parents sue

The parents of two children who died from a blood infection they contracted after treatment for leukaemia plan to sue the hospital. Page 7

Legal aid not checked

Millions of pounds in legal aid were still being granted to defendants in criminal cases without checks on whether they qualify for public funds. Page 9

Wanted: the Sheriff of Nottingham

The post of Sheriff of Nottingham is to go unfilled for the first time in more than 800 years because no one eligible for the office will accept it. Four members of the Labour majority on Nottingham City Council, which makes the annual choice, refused to be nominated and no volunteers could be found among the remaining 37 Labour councillors. Page 9

Cab driver crackdown

Tens of thousands of unlicensed minicab drivers in London are to be subject to proposed tough controls aimed at driving dangerous "cowboy" operators out of business, the Government has announced. Page 10

Americans expelled

The French Government has admitted that seven US citizens, including six diplomats, were being expelled from the country as spies. Page 11

Security alert

South African police and armed forces in KwaZulu/Natal have stepped up security after MPs of the Inkatha Freedom Party walked out of parliament earlier this week. Page 13

President quits

President Rabbani of Afghanistan, who has exceeded his term of office by two months, has promised to step down by March 21 to save a United Nations peace plan from collapse. Page 13

German strike

Many German industrial plants are expected to halt in what could become the most devastating strike in 11 years. Page 13



Lady Smith, widow of the Labour leader John Smith, took her seat in the House of Lords yesterday. She was accompanied by her daughters, from left, Jane, Catherine and Sarah, and said that she hoped to take an interest in policy for the arts. Diary, page 16

BUSINESS

Competition: Britain's most senior competition official called for the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to be scrapped and replaced with a single European-style cartel office. Page 23

Satchi & Satchi: The advertising agency was dealt a blow when Mars, one of its top five clients, announced it was ending its 40-year relationship with the agency. Page 23

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell 3.9 points to close at 3019.5. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 87.0 to 87.1 after a rise from \$1.5805 to \$1.5885 but a fall from DM2.3383 to DM2.3314. Page 26

SPORT

Football: Stewart Houston, formerly the assistant manager, will take charge of Arsenal until the end of the season. Page 44

Cricket: David Graveney and Jack Simmons have been nominated to challenge Fred Titmus and Brian Bofus for election as England selectors next month. Page 42

Rugby union: England have an unchanged side to play against Scotland at Twickenham. Scotland recalled Scott Hastings for their match against Wales. Page 39

Racing: The Fellow, winner of the Gold Cup at Cheltenham last year, has been withdrawn from this year's race. Page 41

ARTS

Deadly dull: After the months of hype, *Natural Born Killers* has arrived. But, says Geoff Brown, Oliver Stone's film about Romeo and Juliet serial killers is a boring insult to our intelligence. Page 33

CD Direct: The rich legacy of David Munrow, the pioneer of the early music movement. Page 35

BOOKS

Populist historian: "If he were adopted as the in-house historian of the parliamentary Left, a Blair government might have intellectual foundations after all," Jonathan Clark reviews the work of Raphael Samuel. Page 36

FEATURES

Rolling Stones: As the icons arrive in Johannesburg, with Mick Jagger declaring this a "no drink, no drugs tour", Giles Coren wonders whether South Africans know what they are getting. Page 14

BODY AND MIND

Change of heart: "I haven't been breathless since the operation," says Derrick Morris, Europe's longest surviving heart transplant recipient. Page 15

TRAVEL NEWS

Building bridges: Friendlier relations between Turkey and Greece are hoped for as a holiday combining tours of both countries is launched in Istanbul. Page 20

THE PAPERS

Talking has won Northern Ireland the longest period of peace for 25 years. It is well worth continuing. The proposals will not win consensus but are a starting point along the long hard road towards a lasting settlement. — *Belfast Telegraph*

What [the document] does do is to create a framework within which nationalists can work through peaceful means to persuade unionists that in time their best future lies within a united Ireland. — *Evening Herald, Dublin*

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

■ BYE-BYE BLUES
David Sinclair on how Blur has put a smile back into pop

■ PLUS ...
The Bernard Levin column, the Valerie Grove interview and Benedict Nightingale's theatre review



THE TIMES CROSSWORD CHAMPIONSHIP 1995 ELIMINATOR PUZZLE

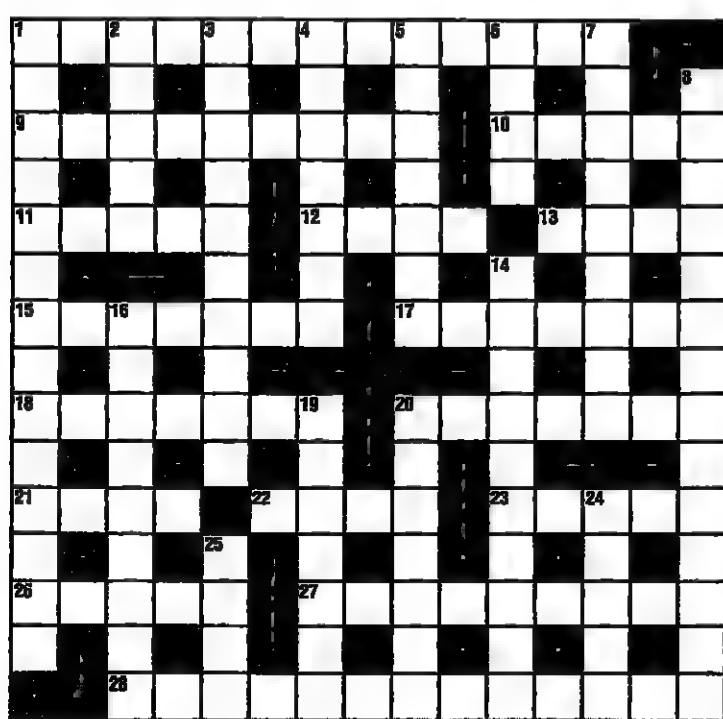
I enclose a stamped addressed envelope.

NAME (please print)

ADDRESS

VENUE

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,786



ACROSS

- 1 Lorca had a fine translation of his Japanese works (8,5)
- 9 Fat prize for Mrs. Cripps (9)
- 10 Nona, the windjammer may be called (5)
- 11 A Belgian sister — the one in the title role (5)
- 12 Paddy's temptation (4)
- 13 Howls loudly when wreath appears (4)
- 15 He was drowned at sea — off Cayman Island (7)
- 17 I'm making an example of this suppression of letters (7)
- 18 Footmen who are familiar with Veronica (7)
- 20 Extra in lead as Lovage (7)
- 21 Time for beginners to do as you say (4)
- 22 This line sounds almost the best (4)
- 23 Cambridge's three-quarters (5)
- 26 English illustrator retires from fray (5)
- 27 Opposed to admitting trainee singer (9)

DOWN

- 28 A blessing, incorporating refined song and dance originally, with neat lines (13)
- 1 Learns the characters in Braille, initially for an arts course (7,7)
- 2 Station held up during collapse of stout party (5)
- 3 Bloomer made by his ragtime band (10)
- 4 Aboard the coach, admits the queue sounds a nightmare (7)
- 5 It takes an old soldier to dance till dawn, say (7)
- 6 Chain reaction from splash (4)
- 7 The sailor king's rise in simple story (9)
- 8 Banger with a blown pipe making a racket (7,7)
- 14 In America, father and son have food sent up hot (10)
- 16 Grooming aid for a stud (5-4)
- 19 Stop nursemaid getting in the way (7)
- 20 Fruit put me in top form (7)
- 24 Hot or cold, a hat is required (5)
- 25 The end of Dr Johnson's observation (4)

All entrants who qualified for regional finals to Glasgow, York, Bristol and Birmingham have been accepted for the finals. All regional finals will begin at 2pm, and the competitors may check in from 1pm.

As there are more qualifiers for the London A and B finals than can be accommodated, those who have been notified of their qualification are required to attempt this eliminator puzzle. Qualifiers are strongly urged to submit their attempts even if they cannot complete the puzzle, since entrants with several omissions or mistakes are likely to be admitted.

The solution will appear next Thursday and entrants will be individually informed of the result of the elimination within three weeks. The completed form and puzzle, which must be accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope (9 inches x 4, please), should be sent to 'The Times Crossword Championship, 13 Church Lane, Ripon, N. Yorks. HG4 2ES so that the envelope is postmarked not later than Wednesday, March 1.

If you have a preference for either the A or the B London final, please indicate under Venue and we will do our best to accommodate you.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0800 500 followed by the code.

Region	Code	Forecast
Greater London	701	Greater London
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702	Kent, Surrey, Sussex
Dorset, Dorset & IOW	703	Dorset, Dorset & IOW
Devon & Cornwall	704	Devon & Cornwall
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset	705	Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Somerset
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford	706	Berkshire, Bucks, Oxford
Bedfordshire & Essex	707	Bedfordshire & Essex
Northampton, Cambridgeshire	708	Northampton, Cambridgeshire
West Midlands & Shropshire	709	West Midlands & Shropshire
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710	Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester
Central Midlands	711	Central Midlands
East Midlands	712	East Midlands
Lincolnshire	713	Lincolnshire
Dyfed & Pembrokeshire	714	Dyfed & Pembrokeshire
Gwynedd & Anglesey	715	Gwynedd & Anglesey
N.W. Wales	716	N.W. Wales
W. & S. Wales & Dorset	717	W. & S. Wales & Dorset
N.E. England	718	N.E. England
Cumbria & Lake District	719	Cumbria & Lake District
S.W. Scotland	720	S.W. Scotland
W. Central Scotland	721	W. Central Scotland
Edinburgh & Fife	722	Edinburgh & Fife
E. Central Scotland	723	E. Central Scotland
Grampian & E. Highlands	724	Grampian & E. Highlands
N.W. Scotland	725	N.W. Scotland
Caithness, Orkney & Shetland	726	Caithness, Orkney & Shetland
W. Ireland	727	W. Ireland
Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rate) and 40p per minute at all other times.		

Solution to Puzzle No 19,785

ACROSS	DOWN
1. Lorca	1. Learns
2. Station	2. Bloomer
3. Aboard	3. Chain
4. It takes	4. The sailor
5. Banger	5. Banger
6. In America	6. Grooming
7. Stop nursemaid	7. Fruit
8. Hot or cold	8. The end

FORECAST

General: bright spells but some rain. England and Wales will be showery in the west but bright, sunny and mainly dry in the east. Rain will spread from the west later. It will be bright in Scotland with sunny intervals and showers. In Northern Ireland it will be bright and mainly dry in Down and Antrim at first, with showers in the west. All parts will be cloudy and wet.

London, SE England, E Anglia, Central S England, E Midlands, E England, Central N, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee: clear or bright with sunny periods. Mainly dry. Rain or sleet later. Winds moderate or fresh south-westerly. Max 7C-9C (45F-48F).

W Midlands, Channel Isles, NW England, Lake District, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands: bright intervals and showers. Cloud and rain spreading from the west in the afternoon, sleet or snow in hill areas. Winds moderate or fresh south-westerly. Max 8C (46F).

SW England, S Wales, N Wales, Isle of Man, N Ireland: bright intervals and showers. Becoming wet in the afternoon with sleet or snow on hills. Winds moderate south-westerly becoming light. Max 7C-8C (45F-46F).

Moyle, Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: bright or sunny intervals and rain, sleet or snow showers. Moderate or fresh westerly winds easing. Max 6C (43F).

Outlook: showers in the north, rain at times in the south.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sea
London	10	10	10	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10	10	10	10
Glasgow	10	10	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10
Birmingham	10	10	10	10	10
Manchester	10	10	10	10	10
Nottingham	10	10	10	10	10
Leeds	10	10	10	10	10
Sheffield	10	10	10	10	10
Coventry	10	10	10	10	10
Bristol	10	10	10	10	10
Bath	10	10	10	10	10
Exeter	10	10	10	10	10
Plymouth	10	10	10	10	10
Cardiff	10	10	10	10	10
Belfast	10	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10	10

ABROAD

Area	Temp	Wind	Cloud	Rain	Sea
Madrid	10	10	10	10	10
Paris	10	10	10	10	10
Rome	10	10	10	10	10
Amsterdam	10	10	10	10	10
Stockholm	10	10	10	10	10
Helsinki	10	10	10	10	10
Oslo	10	10	10	10	10
Reykjavik	10	10	10	10	10
London	10	10	10	10	10

AA ROADWATCH

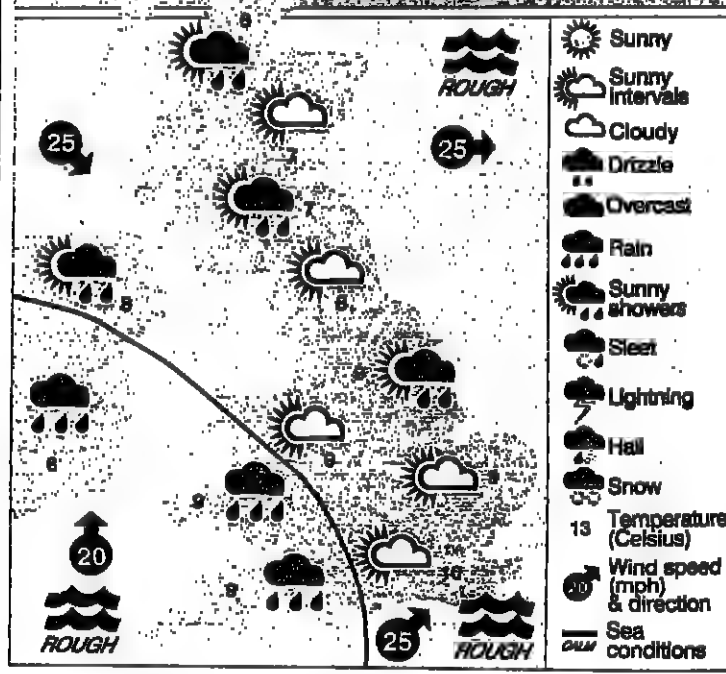
For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0300 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks: 731

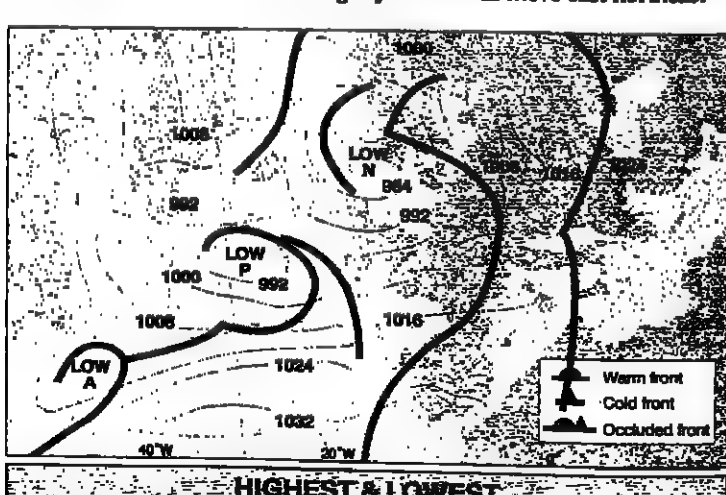
Edinburgh & SE traffic, roadworks: 732

Kent/Surrey/Sussex/Hants: 734

NOON TODAY



Changes to the chart below from noon: low N will drift northeast; low P will move southeast and fill slightly; low A will move east-northeast



HIGHEST & LOWEST

Area	High	Low
London	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10
Glasgow	10	10
Belfast	10	10
Cardiff	10	10
Birmingham	10	10
Manchester	10	10
Nottingham	10	10
Leeds	10	10
Sheffield	10	10
Coventry	10	10
Bristol	10	10
Bath	10	10
Exeter	10	10
Plymouth	10	10
Cardiff	10	10
Belfast	10	10
London	10	10

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Area	Start	End
London	10	10
Edinburgh	10	10
Glasgow	10	10
Belfast	10	10
Cardiff	10	10
Birmingham	10	10
Manchester	10	10
Nottingham	10	10
Leeds	10	10
Sheffield	10	10
Coventry	10	10
Bristol	10	10
Bath	10	10
Exeter	10	10
Plymouth	10	10
Cardiff	10	10
Belfast	10	10
London	10	10

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EURO CURRENCY 27

Eddie George on the pros and cons of monetary union



BOOKS 36, 37

Nigella Lawson on a byword for the worst of journalism



SPORT 39-44

Houston given a chance to prove his worth

PIED PIPER
OF EARLY
MUSIC
Arts 33-35

THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23 1995



Untying the knot: Derek Bonham and David Clarke, after unveiling details of the demerger of the 34 American businesses in London yesterday

Heseltine delays Lloyd's rule move

By OUR INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

APPROVAL of a controversial plan by Lloyd's of London to change its rules so that it can capture litigation proceeds directly has been delayed by Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade.

Thousands of litigating Lloyd's names have written to Mr Heseltine and urged their local MPs to take the issue up with him. Lloyd's had assumed it would receive approval with ease from the Department of Trade and Industry but yesterday it emerged that approval had not been granted by the expected date of last Friday.

As a result, Lloyd's has had to cancel two meetings of its ruling council. The 19 members were due to meet on Monday to nod through the proposed changes to the premium trust deeds but the meeting was put off until yesterday. That session in turn had to be called off.

Litigating names are fiercely opposed to the planned changes and have been advised by four leading counsel that the change could be unlawful. Lloyd's itself has admitted that that could be the case. The issue is due to be decided by the courts but Lloyd's has said that it is unlikely before the autumn.

In a letter sent to Mr Heseltine on Monday, Michael Deeny, chairman of the Litigating Names' Committee, wrote: "They [Lloyd's] want to treat the several hundred million pounds caught by these proposed changes as assets of Lloyd's at that date [31 August]."

Hanson deal clears path for takeover

By SARAH BAGNALL

HANSON, the Anglo-American conglomerate, cleared the way for a multi-billion pound takeover yesterday by demerging 34 of its non-core American businesses in a move that will cut its borrowings by £855 million to about £1.8 billion.

Unveiling the deal, Derek Bonham, deputy chairman and chief executive, said the demerger "gives us that much more financial muscle. We continue to look to acquire major new businesses."

The move, which will cut Hanson's gearing from 58 per cent to 38 per cent, has intensified speculation that the group is keen to acquire a regional electricity company. A Rec would help ease the cyclical nature of Hanson's earnings.

Lord Hanson, a Yorkshireman, has been said to be keen on Yorkshire Electricity, but some analysts expect attention to be directed elsewhere. United Biscuits and Costain also feature as possible items on Hanson's shopping list.

After the demerger, Hanson will consist of seven major business areas — chemicals, coal, building materials, cranes, tobacco, forest products and propane — but Mr Bonham did not rule out the addition of other legs.

The demerger will be slightly earnings dilutive in the short term, but Mr Bonham emphasised that Hanson intends to "maintain our cash dividend and continue our progressive payout policy".

The news lifted the shares 6½p to 242½p.

Hanson shareholders automatically receive shares in the demerged group, US Industries, which will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange. USI made a pro forma operating profit of £198 million on sales of £1.9 billion in 1994. These represent about 17 per cent of Hanson's sales and 15 per cent of pre-tax profits.

USI will consist of a range of branded businesses such as Jacuzzi, the bath products company, Resair vacuum cleaners, Earl toys, and Tommy Armour golf equipment and will have 23,000 employees.

Hanson shareholders are being offered one USI share for every 100 Hanson shares or 20 ADRs. The distribution

is tax-free. The shares are expected to be distributed in June, after gaining shareholder approval at an extraordinary meeting in May.

The deal has led to a management reshuffle. David Clarke, who joined Hanson 22 years ago when his company was acquired by the conglomerate, is leaving his post as chief executive at Hanson Industries in the US to become USI's chairman and chief executive. He will remain a Hanson director, in a non-executive capacity. Mr Clarke is taking a significant pay cut as a result of the move but will be compensated with performance-related bonuses and share options, details of which will be revealed in later documentation. John Raos will become USI's president.

William Landuyt, Hanson's finance director, is moving to America to head Hanson Industries, while Andrew Douglas moves up to fill the vacant finance post.

The demerger, advised by NM Rothschild, will cost £44 million, and will leave USI with debt of \$1.4 billion and net assets of \$375 million — equal to gearing of nearly 400 per cent. Bank of America has provided USI with a five-year \$1.65 billion loan to fund the acquisition. Mr Clarke said he expected the debt to be paid down fairly swiftly through cash generation and a rationalisation programme, including disposals.

He said: "You will see how fast we will blow through that debt. With an aggressive debt reduction programme and an excellent array of fine companies, we are confident we can build increasing value in USI in the coming years."

Temper, page 26
Stock market, page 26

Axe MMC to form unitary cartel office, says Carsberg

By ROSS TIEMAN, INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S most senior competition official, yesterday called for the Office of Fair Trading and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to be scrapped, and replaced with a single, European-style cartel office.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, Director-General of Fair Trading, said that Britain should outlaw restrictive practices and introduce statutory fines and penalties for transgressors.

He also said that it was "not appropriate" for politicians to continue to be involved in decisions about whether and how to implement every report from the MMC. "Most of the issues are not political," he said. Certain kinds of decisions, "for example, divestments", could, however, be reserved for ministers under a reformed system.

Sir Bryan's remarks amazed members of the Commons Trade and Industry Committee enquiry into monopolies policy, to which he was giving evidence.

Graeme Odgers, chairman of the MMC, had earlier told the committee that Britain's system for implementing com-

petition policy was broadly satisfactory, although he acknowledged deficiencies in the laws against restrictive practices.

Sir Bryan, who leaves the OFT this summer, less than half way through his five-year term, to become secretary-general of the International Accounting Standards Committee, denied that his views stemmed from disillusion with his role.

He said that he had concluded that Britain's competition regime was out of step with international practice, including that of most European partners of the UK. Britain would be better served by adopting a "prohibition system" that set clear rules for companies to abide by, he said. This would be best administered by a "unitary" authority organised like the German cartel office. Decisions on mergers could continue to be judged under the existing "approval" system, he said.

Britain's competition regime, Sir Bryan told MPs, was "increasingly at variance with international practice". Italy and the Irish Republic had recently reformed their competition regulations in line with the procedures of the European Commission competition directorate, DG IV, he said.

"I would favour adoption of the prohibition approach," Sir Bryan said. "I would favour the adoption of a unitary competition authority in the United Kingdom."

Sir Bryan said that introduction of a set of statutory offences, supported by creation of an enforcement agency with the power to investigate and to impose fines, would improve protection for consumers, reduce abuse, and cut the cost of tackling it.



Sir Bryan: amazed MPs

UK 'at odds' with social proposals for summit

By PHILIP BASSETT, INDUSTRIAL EDITOR

BRITAIN is endorsing Brussels' policy proposals for the United Nations world social summit. However, many of the proposals, including a social chapter-style clause to be attached to world trade talks and supported by the US, appear to run counter to UK policy.

The summit in Copenhagen in ten days' time will be attended by world leaders. In advance of the summit, the European Commission is putting forward social policy proposals which Labour said yesterday were "diametrically at odds" with those favoured by UK Government ministers.

Labour disclosed the Commission's proposals yesterday and the UK Government's support for them, and claimed that this provided fresh evidence of the Government's "disarray" over Europe.

The unpublished proposals are in a Commission document on the EU's priorities for the summit and were considered yesterday by some MEPs. The Commission is urging the UN summit to adopt policies which "should be geared explicitly to reducing poverty, fostering productive employment and ensuring social integration".

There are specific references to the idea, promoted by the US, of attaching to future agreements reached by the World Trade Organisation a social clause providing for minimum employment standards which UK ministers oppose as similar to the effect of the social chapter of the EU Maastricht treaty, from which Britain negotiated an opt-out.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET INDICES

FT-SE 100	2019.5	(-3.9)
FT-SE All share	1483.09	(-2.91)
Nikkei	18106.65	(+10.40)
Dow Jones	3978.77	(+14.80)
S&P Composite	484.94	(+2.22)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5.75%	(5.75%)
Long Bond	100.14%	(100.14%)
Yield	7.59%	(7.51%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth Interbank	8.11%	(8.11%)
Life long gilt	101.1%	(101.1%)

STERLING

New York	1.8885	(1.8865)
London	1.8875	(1.8855)
DM	2.3306	(2.3372)
FF	1.6500	(1.6490)
Sfr	1.3814	(1.3752)
Yen	163.80	(153.35)
S index	87.1	(87.0)

US DOLLAR

London	1.4710*	(1.4705)
DM	5.1400*	(5.1390)
FF	1.2482*	(1.2485)
Yen	98.99*	(97.10)
S index	87.1	(87.0)

Tokyo close Yen 98.93

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (May)	\$18.80	(\$18.85)
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GOLD

London close	\$378.00	(\$378.00)
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* denotes midday trading price

Pay damage

A group set up to improve relations between the City and industry has found publicity over high pay increases and payoffs for company board members has damaged the public's perception of British industry. The group has added its weight to disapproval of share option schemes. Page 24

Low power

The electrical retailer owned by East Midlands and Yorkshire has been sold for £7 million. Of the 130 Homepower stores, 59 will be closed with the loss of 500 jobs. The 59 have chalked up most of Homepower's £20 million losses in the past two years. Page 25

Greenspan hints that US rates may be near peak

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

ALAN GREENSPAN, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, strongly suggested yesterday that US interest rates may not be far from their peak and also foresaw the possibility of cutting rates if the economy slows enough, even if there were "adverse price pressures".

US shares and bonds rallied strongly on his remarks in his semi-annual Humphrey-Hawkins testimony to the Senate Banking Committee. From anticipating rates of up to 8 per cent a few weeks ago, the markets were only yesterday pricing in one more half-point rise in US interest rates.

The dollar, however, came

under more pressure on the suggestion that rates could be lowered, in spite of price pressures. Mr Greenspan said: "There may come a time when we hold our policy stance unchanged, or even ease, despite adverse price data, should we see signs that underlying forces are acting... to reduce inflation."

Tony Norfield, treasury economist at ABN Amro Treasury, said that yesterday's testimony was a dramatic turnaround in the US context and also has interesting implications for British financial markets. "If US interest rates really are going to peak at only around 6.5 per cent, why are

British markets expecting UK rates to reach 8 per cent?"

Mr Greenspan said he saw signs that the US economy was cooling off, but it was too early to say if it was slowing enough to contain inflation. He did not rule out further interest rate rises, saying, as all central bankers must, that the Fed would remain vigilant against inflation.

He said inflation might pick up this year from last year's very low levels but the rise was likely to be temporary. The Fed's rate rises over the past year should lead to a significant slowing in spending, a vital ingredient to prevent inflation from gathering steam.

Mars moves out of Saatchi's orbit

By JON ASHWORTH

SAATCHI & SAATCHI was dealt a crushing blow yesterday when Mars, one of its top five clients, announced it was ending its 40-year relationship with the agency. The sweets-to-petfood company is switching one of its three advertising accounts to BBDO Worldwide at a loss of £30 million in annual revenue — equivalent to Saatchi & Saatchi's entire forecast profits for the 1994 financial year.

The move, which takes with it annual billings of up to \$400 million, is thought to be the largest in the history of advertising. Mars was one of Saatchi & Saatchi's biggest clients alongside Toyota, Procter & Gamble, Philip Morris, General Mills and Johnson & Johnson.

Mars had warned that it would almost certainly take its business elsewhere if Maurice Saatchi was forced from office.

Saatchi & Saatchi shares fell from 105p to 94½p. The loss is particularly damaging to Bates Worldwide, the New York-based advertising subsidiary which has held a key slice of the Mars business since 1954. Bates recently won the \$10 million Lucky Strike account.

Charles Scott, chief executive and acting chairman of Saatchi & Saatchi, said: "Of course I am extremely disappointed, but the future is forward, and we have to look at the upside potential." He said Bates would now be free to compete for new confectionery and petfood clients, adding that it was far too early to talk about redundancies. Mars was fiercely critical of Mr Scott in a letter to Maurice Saatchi last May, saying: "He has no relationship with us and shows no desire to have one."

Mirror Group and Gallaher, maker of Silk Cut cigarettes, have switched their accounts to Mr Saatchi's proposed rival

advertising agency, which has been given the working title Dress Rehearsal. British Airways has put its account with Saatchi & Saatchi up for review, and there is uncertainty over two more — Dixons and the Conservative Party. So far, only Procter & Gamble has publicly declared its intention to stay with the agency.

Contrary to popular belief, Saatchi & Saatchi has never been responsible for promoting the Mars Bar, or coining the famous slogan: "A Mars a day helps you work rest and play." This was the work of DMB&B. Saatchi & Saatchi, through Bates Worldwide, was responsible for petfood brands such as Pedigree Chum, and confectionery brands including Snickers, M&Ms, Milky Way and Opal Fruits. A third Mars account is in the hands of Grey Advertising.

Pennington, page 25



Scott: very disappointed

The year 2000 is only 34 days away.

Fast Forward to the Millennium.

A compelling vision of the future. On the 29th March Group X Marketing is offering the unique chance to hear the enlightening views of distinguished speakers including author and business adviser Stan Davis, Verdict, The Hentley Centre, British Telecom and Geoff Cooke (Deputy Chief Executive National Rugby Coaching Foundation). For tickets and further information please call Sarah Howell at The Marketing Centre on

0171 436 8383

If you don't attend, you could be history.

Fast Forward to the Millennium. £195 + VAT
29th March, 6.30pm, C.E.I., Centre Point, London WC2.

PIA takes tough line on review of selling

By Robert Miller

THE Personal Investment Authority (PIA) has announced sweeping new powers to deal with members who fail to comply with the review of past business in relation to the mis-selling of personal pension plans.

Life companies and independent financial advisers who do not meet a "satisfactory" standard set by the regulator face tough disciplinary action.

The PIA yesterday published its long-awaited policy statement on how members must review past pension business with a view to identifying investors who were wrongly advised to transfer or opt-out of occupational and company pension schemes and into personal pension plans. Nearly 8 million personal pensions have been sold since they first became available in 1988. About half of them may have to be reviewed.

Once companies and advisers have isolated cases in which the wrong advice was given they will have to ascertain whether it is possible to reinstate investors in their former scheme with a view to restoring them to the financial position they would have been in before leaving it.

If this is not possible, the company or adviser will have to make a comparable payment to top-up the investor's personal pension plan. It has been estimated that the pensions industry faces a collective bill for compensation and costs of some £3 billion over the mis-selling scandal.

The scale of individual compensation will be based on specially constructed guidelines. Collette Bowe, chief executive of the PIA, said the overriding consideration was that people who were wrongly advised should not suffer financial loss as a result.

More controversially, the PIA reaffirmed that investors could be entitled to an additional award of up to £750 for "genuine distress or inconvenience". The Association of British Insurers expressed "serious concern" over the distress payments.



Paul Myners, left, and Huw Jones, director of Prudential Portfolio Managers, after the release of the report

Directors' rises upset public, financiers say

By Graham Searjeant, Financial Editor

PUBLICITY given to high profile salary increases and pay-offs to company directors has damaged the public's perception of UK industry, according to a working group of institutional investors, fund managers and company finance directors that aims to improve relations between companies and big shareholders.

The committee, chaired by Paul Myners, chairman of the Garmore fund management group, adds to a chorus of disapproval of conventional share option schemes.

Its report, *Developing a Winning Partnership*, argues that they have done little to achieve their avowed purpose of raising the share stakes of top managers. Incentive schemes should encourage

long-term share ownership by executive directors, instead of being a one-way option geared to short-term performance.

The report, which will be sent to 6,000 companies and institutions, urges institutions to vote at company meetings and take "an active and involved interest in constitutional governance". Remuneration committees should avoid "slavish emphasis" on pay tables or setting "top quartile" salaries that rather averages up.

Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, whose innovation programme fostered the Myners committee, said he hoped that it would discuss its conclusions with the CBI committee on directors' pay chaired by Sir Richard Greenbury. The main

purpose of the Myners working group was, however, to suggest a statement of best practice for companies, institutional investors and pension fund trustees to improve long-term relationships and overcome industry fears of City short-termism.

The group had such scathing criticisms of companies' annual general meetings that it considered urging that they be abandoned as a legal requirement. Mr Myners said these formal meetings were "an area of despair" for companies. Virtually all those consulted thought them a waste of time, ignored by big shareholders and hijacked by special interest groups.

Instead, the report suggests reforms. These would encourage questions to be submitted

in advance, include trading statements and presentations, and have directors available to answer minor individual queries privately.

However, the group suggests that companies should strengthen their relationships with big investors on a separate in-depth annual presentation of management strategy for investing institutions and stock analysts. Only a few companies, such as Glaxo, already do this.

Companies should issue quarterly trading updates and annual reports should contain operating and financial reviews, recommended by the Accounting Standards Board.

Developing a Winning Partnership: for copies contact 0800 442 001.

UK growth for 1994 revised to 3.8%

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

BRITAIN'S growth last year was yesterday revised down slightly to 3.8 per cent from 4 per cent in preliminary figures, according to the Central Statistical Office. The final quarter's growth, however, was unrevised at 0.8 per cent.

Most notable in the figures was the gross domestic price deflator, a key measure of inflation, which dropped to 1.4 per cent in the final quarter from 1.5 per cent in the third. This was its lowest gain since 1962.

Overall investment was up by 1.4 per cent. Investment on dwellings rose 5 per cent between the two quarters, having fallen 5.1 per cent in the third quarter compared with the second. Spending on plant and machinery was up 2.4 per cent in the final quarter and about 6 per cent higher than a year ago.

Consumer spending rose 0.6 per cent in the final quarter. This was stronger than previous quarters in 1994 and was attributed to buoyant pre-Christmas retail sales. However, sales in January were weak and economists pointed out that year-on-year growth in consumer spending slowed down to 2 per cent in the fourth quarter from 2.2 per cent in the third, the slowest year-on-year rate since the final quarter of 1992.

Yesterday's figures are probably neutral for interest rates or even slightly positive. There were downward revisions to the first three quarters of 1994. These accounted for the downward revision in overall growth in 1994.

The figures strengthened a view in the City that growth in 1995 will be no more than 3 per cent, compared with the 3.25 per cent forecast by the Treasury.

The National Institute of Economic and Social Research yesterday forecast growth of around 3 per cent this year, with inflation ending the year also at about 3 per cent. In 1996, the institute believes, growth will slow to around 2.5 per cent while inflation will increase to about 4 per cent.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Fairfax advertising revenue surges 17%

JOHN FAIRFAX Holdings, the Australian newspaper group at the centre of an ownership battle yesterday as it unveiled a 17 per cent surge in advertising revenue to about A\$383 million (£180 million) for the half-year in December. The group, whose classified advertising revenues from *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Age* give it two of the world's five most profitable titles, lifted pre-tax operating profits 47.5 per cent to A\$121.3 million.

Stephen Mulholland, chief executive, said: "Results for the first two months of 1995 suggest advertising volumes will experience further growth in this half. This will be supplemented by further cost savings associated with computerisation and commissioning of new equipment." Net profit after tax rose 50 per cent on a comparable basis to A\$81.3 million. The interim dividend is increased 40 per cent to 3.5 cents.

Changes at HK bank

STANDARD CHARTERED is making changes in the Far East, where it does most of its business, by putting John McFarlane, the director who runs its investment banking and Treasury business in charge of its Hong Kong and China region. He is expected to look for ways to squeeze more revenue out of the businesses there and to keep costs in check. Standard Chartered's local broking subsidiary was fined last year for failing to supervise staff who were making profits by not securing the best price for customers. David Moir, who had run the region from his base in Singapore, will head the East and South East Asia region.

Dublin wins 1,100 jobs

HEWLETT-PACKARD, the American electronics group, is to invest \$160 million in a new manufacturing plant in Dublin, creating about 1,100 jobs over the next four years. The plant, which is expected to be completed late next year, will initially employ 300 people and will produce print cartridges to support the company's growing inkjet printer business in Europe. The Irish plant will be Hewlett-Packard's eleventh manufacturing site in Europe. The company will start production from leased premises, pending completion of the new plant, in the second quarter of next year.

JLI Group chief leaves

JLI GROUP, the food processing company that issued a profit warning earlier this month, has reorganised its group structure and management, resulting in the departure of Graham Scott as chief executive. It was announced yesterday. Yoav Gotesman, the chairman, said there were no plans to replace Mr Scott. JLI's three current divisions will be consolidated into an ingredients division and a snacks/consumer products division. The changes will not give rise to any significant cost, the company said. JLI shares rose 1p to 72p.

Toyota export milestone

THE 100,000th Toyota Corolla E car to be exported from Britain was yesterday driven on to a ship at Grimsby by Tim Eggar, the Industry and Energy Minister, its destination Denmark. Toyota began production of the Corolla E in Burnaston, Derbyshire, in December 1992, and exports started the following month. The Japanese firm exports about 1,500 cars a week and Denmark is one of 17 European markets supplied from the UK. Alan Marsh, vice-chairman of Toyota Motor Europe, said the gross value of Toyota's exports from the UK reached £500 million last year.

Acatos profits warning

SHARES in Acatos & Hutchison fell 16p to 240p after the edible oil products manufacturer warned shareholders that half-year profits would be lower than those in the corresponding period in the previous year. Ian Hutchison told the annual meeting: "The aggressive pricing in a number of our markets, which was noted in our 1994 annual report, has continued at a time when we should be seeking to recover substantial and unavoidable increases in raw material and packaging costs from our customers." Integration and restructuring costs were also being incurred.

IoD attacks lack of EMU debate

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

CLASHES over a single currency in Europe flared again last night as the Institute of Directors attacked political and business attempts to stifle debate and hide genuine concern about economic and monetary union.

Tim Melville-Ross, Director-General of the IoD, insisted that the issue of a single currency was of such importance to business and the country that it had to be examined fully. In a clear reference to the Prime Minister's insistence that Cabinet members should not voice disagreements in public over the issue, as well as the claims by the CBI to give business's views on a single currency, he said: "Politicians are being urged to stop arguing about the issue and sweep their disagreements under the carpet. There are senior business figures

who want to pretend business is united in favour of EMU." He said: "The IoD does not agree. Other than going to war, no decision could be more important than one to enter EMU and abandon our national currency."

Speaking at an IoD conference on European works councils (EWCs), Mr Melville-Ross extended his attacks, rejecting EWCs as likely to "utterly destroy corporate confidentiality". He said they would encourage collective bargaining and old-style European unionism. In reply, David Lea, assistant general secretary of the TUC, insisted it was the IoD's "inflexibility" over works councils that had made it impossible for the CBI to reach a voluntary agreement over EWCs.

Eddie George, page 27

Portillo rejects attack on UK jobs policies

By our Industrial Editor

THE Government strongly defended its jobs record yesterday as Labour and trade union leaders welcomed an international employment study which is highly critical of the UK's labour market policies.

Michael Portillo, Secretary of State for Employment, rejected as "wrong" a report by the United Nations' International Labour Office which called on countries worldwide to embrace again full employment as their principal economic policy. It dismissed deregulation of the labour market, which is favoured by the UK Government, as the way to reduce unemployment and create jobs.

Speaking in Geneva at the launch of the ILO study, the organisation's Director-General, Michel Hansenne, emphasised employment as a



Portillo: strong defence

central economic value, and urged the forthcoming UN social summit to deal with the "crisis of unemployment" which had led to 30 per cent of the world's workforce, or some 820m people, to be unemployed or underemployed.

However, Mr Portillo said that the ILO was "wrong if it

thinks that making jobs more expensive has no effect on unemployment."

Referring to the report's finding that a minimum wage does not lead to higher unemployment, he said: "What they say about a minimum wage and about labour market inflexibility flies in the face of the facts."

Labour and trade union leaders, however, brushed aside the Government's response to the study in their enthusiastic welcome for the report. Harriet Harman, Labour's Shadow Employment Secretary, said it showed clearly that the UK's labour market policies were internationally out of line.

For the unions, the leader of the GMB general union, John Edmonds, said that the report was "the most damning indictment of British government policy ever seen from an international agency".

TOURIST RATES

Bank	Bank
Australia \$	1.50
Belgium Fr	17.40
Canada \$	0.68
Cyprus Cyp£	0.787
Denmark Kr	8.46
Finland Mk	7.10
France Fr	6.55
Germany DM	2.48
Greece Dr	166.00
Hong Kong \$	12.28
Ireland P£	1.06
Italy Lira	2,036.00
Japan Yen	160.00
Malta	0.10
Netherlands Gld	2.784
Norway Kr	10.46
Portugal Esc	200.00
Spain Ptas	166.37
Sweden Kr	11.42
Switzerland Fr	2.00
Turkey Lira	65.250
USA \$	1.00

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Economic Development Office, Civic Centre, Strood, Rochester, Kent ME2 4AW

ICL merges computer support with Sorbus

By Ross Tieman, Industrial Correspondent

ICL is to create Europe's fourth-largest computer maintenance operation by merging its in-house support arm with Sorbus, the all-types operation, which it jointly owns with Bell Atlantic of America.

The resulting company, ICL Sorbus, will have annual sales of more than £500 million and employ more than 5,000 people in 15 European countries.

Bell Atlantic will give its 49 per cent stake in Sorbus to ICL in exchange for a share of the profits, in perpetuity. This novel arrangement gives ICL

(which, though British, is 84 per cent owned by Fujitsu of Japan and 16 per cent by Northern Telecom of Canada) complete control of ICL Sorbus at no cost, yet maintains a relationship through which the American group gives ICL access to its remote fault diagnosis technology.

Taking control of the maintenance operation should help ICL increase sales of its own hardware in Europe, where it faces tough competition from IBM, Digital Electronic Equipment Corporation, and Siemens Nixdorf.

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- The TSB UK Growth Fund invests in a wide range of UK ordinary shares and aims for long-term capital growth.
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These three funds, which were launched in November 1994, have all ranked in the top quartile of their particular unit trust sectors over the past three months.

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* Source: Microprint offset-to-offer, income not reinvested.

THE TIMES PEP Token 5 TSB

□ Fighting monopoly with a monopoly □ Mars sounds a 'dis-Cordiant' note □ Another undertaker for short-termism

Reforming the regulators

BRITAIN'S system for preventing the abuse of monopoly power is fast falling into disrepute. The failure of Stephen Littlechild, the electricity regulator, to stop the regional power companies piling up cash has infuriated customers and embarrassed the Government. In telecoms, by contrast, American cable companies are making hay while British Telecom fights to protect its market share with one hand tied behind its back.

Sir Bryan Carsberg, in relaxed mood near the end of his shortened stint as Director-General of Fair Trading, has done more heavy demolition work in his evidence to the cross-party Trade and Industry Select Committee. Britain, he argued, should adopt the European method of "prohibitive" regulation to ensure fair play, retaining a modified version of the existing system to close any loopholes.

These proposals deserve a hearing, one in Britain has more experience of fighting monopoly practices. Sir Bryan was Britain's first utility regulator, moving to the OFT two years ago after eight pioneering years as Director-General of Telecommunications.

A decade of utility privatisations has bequeathed Britain a chaotic regulatory structure. Individual regulators, with widely varying duties and

powers provided by Parliament, now oversee industries ranging from water, through railways, to the National Lottery.

For the conventional private sector, Sir Bryan's OFT acts as a competition watchdog. Eyes peeled for excessive profits, ears alert to every complaint of malpractice, the OFT is supposed to investigate suspected abuses to discover whether there is a case to answer.

When initial inquiry by the OFT uncovers uncompetitive practices, the dossier is handed to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission for investigation. The MMC's report and recommendations, based on a broader public interest test, are then delivered to the President of the Board of Trade, Michael Heseltine. He can accept, reject or modify any MMC proposals, although he is obliged to publish the MMC's report.

Some shortcomings of this system are widely accepted. The Government proposed in 1989 to introduce a prohibition of anti-competitive agreements based upon Article 85 of the Treaty of Rome. Nothing has happened.

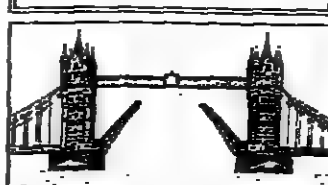
Now, Sir Bryan says, Britain should also prohibit the abuse of market power, along the lines of Article 86. And he wants the OFT and MMC merged into a single cartel office, with the power to initiate and conduct inquiries, and impose fines, subject to the check of judicial review. This, he says, would provide a much more effective deterrent to unscrupulous business managers, and save the taxpayer money. It is a compelling argument.

Britain's competition regime is over-complex, inefficient and ineffective. Reform is overdue, but it should not sacrifice openness for efficiency.

The unsweetest cut of all

THE decision by Mars to take away its \$400 million account clearly has serious implications for Saatchi & Saatchi's profits. It also serves to damage further the credibility of the board, led by acting chairman and chief executive Charles Scott and graced by the likes of Sir Peter Walters and Sir Paul Girolami. How

PENNINGTON



wise were the directors to bow to the back-door pressures of Chicago fund manager David Herro at mid-December's board marathon? In view of recent developments, were they wise at all?

Scott let it be known yesterday that he was "disappointed" to have lost Mars. Disappointed but, presumably, not surprised. It is no secret that, in May 1994, John and Forrest Mars packaged a distinctly unsweet letter to Saatchi & Saatchi which made it abundantly clear how much the confectioners valued Maurice Saatchi's input. The directors were fully aware of this and other communications when they forced Mr Saatchi to quit.

Since then, the US combine

\$25 million) has exited along with Burger King (\$15 million), M&M's (\$20 million), Galtaher (\$15 million) and PPP (\$5 million) have switched out of Saatchi & Saatchi into Dress Rehearsal, the working title for the brothers' new show. Sir Colin Marshall has put British Airways — and conceivably Qantas — (\$150 million between them) on standby, while Stanley Kalms is mulling over Dixon's \$45 million spend.

Mars, perceived as the glue which holds Bates Worldwide together, accounted for revenues of £30 million. Saatchi & Saatchi has consistently stressed that this only represents about 5 per cent of revenues. The problem is that Saatchi & Saatchi's 1994 profits, expected to be struck at around £32 million, also represent a similar percentage of revenue.

Overnight, or rather over an eight-hour debate, a figure horribly close to the equivalent of a year's profits has been blown. What remains to be seen is whether sharp 1995 profit downgrades will impact on the company's \$500 million facility (of which about half is in play) or associated bank covenants. Since

mid-December, Saatchi & Saatchi's share price has fallen from more than 150p to 94½p. Bravo, Mr Herro.

Long-term thinking process

TIMES change and diagnoses change, but myopia remains the perceived sin of business. With the usual magnificent exceptions, Britain's boardrooms probably take a shorter view now than when the jargon phrase "short-termism" was as tediously prevalent as "feel-good factor" is today. But that is more a legacy of deep recession than the result of pressure from fickle institutional investors. Recession-hardened managers learnt that long-term thinking could bring short-term insolvency. Much of quoted business is still imposing short payback periods for investment, lest economic calm precedes more storms.

The Myners report is no less welcome for addressing an issue that has departed from the headlines. The agonised debate of the mid-1980s revealed a

shocking lack of rapport between companies, investors and fund managers, each speaking different languages.

Relationships should be better, the wiseheads of the City, industry and Whitehall all agreed. The Myners report makes some useful concrete suggestions, turning instances of good practice into a code that all might follow to advantage. In doing so, it grasps one nettle. In effect, it consigns formalities geared to the days of the individual investor to the sidelines. Instead, it suggests mechanisms suited to dominant institutional investors. That is a second best solution. If private shareholders are to become mere token-holders, however, it will be better to set up a system of communications that sidelines them, rather than to have no system at all.

In another sense, the report is unrealistic. All agree that performance targets for fund managers should be as long-term as institutions' relations with companies. But commercial pressures point in the opposite direction. Consultants offer companies cheaper pension funding. Clever corporate financiers devise ways for fund managers to achieve it. Paul Myners, realistic as ever, understandably fears he and his colleagues will merely be dismissed as another set of well-meaning boy scouts.

Homepower shop chain split in £7m sale

By ERIC REGULY

MOST OF the ailing Homepower electrical retailing chain, owned jointly by East Midlands Electricity and Yorkshire Electricity, has been sold for about £7 million to a South African businessman who intends to use the outlets as a base for expansion.

Clive Viotman, through his PowerStore retailing business, is buying 71 of the 130 Homepower stores and will offer jobs to 1,300 of Homepower's employees. The 59 stores he is not buying will be closed in April, with the loss of 500 jobs.

East Midlands and Yorkshire, which have owned Homepower since 1993, do not expect many forced redundancies because 280 of the employees are temporary staff and another 200 are eligible for early retirement.

Mr Viotman, who expressed interest in Homepower in November, is buying only the stores that operate at a profit. The others, mostly small, high street outlets, have chalked up the bulk of the chain's losses of more than £20 million in the past two years.

The Homepower stores will be added to the 16 PowerStores that Mr Viotman's Harakas holding company acquired from London Electricity in 1993. The two chains will share overhead costs, such as inventory-control systems, and offer a broader range of consumer goods, including mobile phones and comput-

ers. Mr Viotman expects the Homepower and PowerStore chains to make pre-tax profits of about £4 million this year.

Mr Viotman said that he is in talks to buy other electrical retailers, but would not say which ones. "This won't be the last investment," he said.

Powerhouse Retail, owned 36 per cent by Southern Electric, is thought to be on his list of possible acquisitions. Powerhouse is losing about £5 million a year.

Mr Viotman's retail business, including the 16 PowerStore shops, will have 87 outlets. "We can accommodate a group about double our current size," he said.

Mr Viotman, 44, has spent most of his career in electrical retailing. Born in Cape Town, his last job in South Africa was group merchandise manager of Morkels, a large electrical and furniture chain. He left South Africa in 1986 and joined the Dixon stores group as marketing manager, rising to marketing director of white goods.

In 1991, he was hired by London Electricity to run its retail division. He ended up buying 16 of its stores in 1993 for about £7 million, the same price he is paying for 71 Homepower stores.

Yorkshire and East Midlands said that Homepower's losses, including the cost of closing stores not sold to Mr Viotman, will total £60 million, or £30 million per partner.

MTM on lookout for takeovers

By NEIL BENNETT
DEPUTY BUSINESS EDITOR

MTM, the speciality chemicals group, is seeking acquisitions with a £16.7 million war chest. The company demonstrated its continuing recovery by reporting a £2.9 million profit for 1994, against a loss of £12 million previously.

David Swallow, chairman, said that MTM wants to use its net cash to buy additional chemicals businesses in Britain. "Currently, most of our effort is going into looking for new core businesses," he said. He said that the group was close to making an acquisition, but that it had looked at other companies and pulled out after doing due diligence. MTM is prepared to spend up to £20 million on the right deal.

MTM, which almost collapsed under heavy borrowings two years ago, bought Colin Stewart Minchem, a detergent ingredients manufacturer, last April. This contributed £1.77 million in its first nine months, which the company said was an encouraging performance amid turbulence in the detergents market.

MTM is to pay a final dividend of 1p on May 25, making 1.5p for the year, the first year it has paid a dividend since 1991.

Tempus, page 26

General Cable loss deepens

By ERIC REGULY

GENERAL CABLE, the French-owned cable operator that plans to raise about £200 million on the London and Nasdaq markets in the spring, yesterday reported deep losses in 1994, but attributed most of it to one-off charges and heavy spending on its network.

The company reported a pre-tax loss of £18.3 million for the year to December 31, against a loss of £3 million in 1993. Turnover rose by 25 per cent, to £21.1 million.

David Miller, finance director, said that network depreciation, interest charges on money borrowed to fund expansion, and less profit from deemed disposals were behind the results. General also had to write off £1.6 million in charges related to last May's aborted flotation.

General said that it expects positive cash flow from its three main cable franchises this year and reported strong growth in its high-margin telephony business. More than half of its income revenue now comes from business and residential telephony services.

Sir Anthony Cleaver, the UK Atomic Energy Authority chairman, has succeeded Lord Rees as non-executive chairman.

Tempus, page 26

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STOCK MARKET

PHILIP PANGALOS

Hanson to the fore as shares beat shaky start

ANOTHER roller-coaster day in LONDON was dominated by renewed bid speculation after Hanson unveiled plans to demerge certain US businesses and persistent market talk of an improved offer for Northern Electricity today.

After a shaky start, shares recovered from early lows, driven by weaker futures and jitters on currency markets, and virtually wiped out losses after a strong start in New York.

Concerns about sterling and the dollar continued to depress sentiment in London, though dealers were relieved at the relative success of the Government's latest £2 billion gilt auction, which was more than two times over.

There was a strong start to trading on Wall Street. Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Chairman, in his Humphrey-Hawkins testimony, said economic data since January was slowing, though not slow enough to contain inflation for sure, provided early support for Wall Street.

The FT-SE 100 index, which nursed a 16.6 point loss at one stage, briefly moved into positive territory before slipping back to close 3.9 down at 3,019.5. Volume reached 563.1 million shares.

The day was dominated by Hanson, with the shares advancing 6.4p to 242.5p, on heavy volume of 35.1 million, after the industrial conglomerate unveiled plans to demerge 34 of its non-core US businesses.

The demerger will take the form of a tax-free dividend to shareholders, with investors receiving one new share in US Industries, the new demerged company, for every 100 Hanson shares or 20 ADSs. USI, which will have annual revenue of \$3 billion, will be listed on Wall Street.

The news sparked renewed takeover speculation. Among recent bid favourites, Argyll was unchanged at 268p, United Biscuits fell 4p to 343p and Yorkshire Electricity dimmed 2p to 83p.

Staying with utilities, there was news of some 550 job losses at Yorkshire Electricity and East Midlands Electric, down 15p to 74p, as the two companies quit the electrical retail market by selling retail outlets to Clive Viotman's PowerStore. The cost of the withdrawal to each of the utility groups will be about £30 million.



Clive Viotman is buying Yorkshire and East Midlands shops

Elsewhere, Northern Electric, which is still awaiting increased terms from Trafalgar House, added 12p to £11.29. Trafalgar House, off 4p to 65.2p, is rumoured to be considering lifting the value of its bid for Northern to nearer the £12 level, either today or tomorrow.

Saatchi & Saatchi, the troubled advertising agency, took

another knock, touching a low of 92p before settling 10p lower at 94.5p, after the company confirmed the loss of the key Mars account, which is worth £30 million a year. The defection of the Mars confectionery to petfood giant, which is one of Saatchi's biggest customers, comes after the loss of the Mirror Group newspapers and Silk Cut accounts. Saatchi said the agency

is hoping to hang on to the British Airways account which is currently under review.

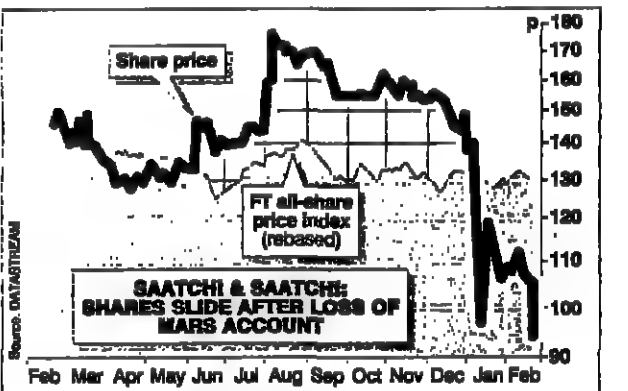
Elsewhere, Allied Domecq advanced 10p to 508p, bolstered by reports of buy recommendations from Cazenove and Hoare Govett. Recent brokers' recommendations also helped to lift Guinness, up 6p to 422p, Thorne EMI, 11p stronger at

Kleinwort Benson is recommending a switch out of Barclays, down 4p to 597p, and into National Westminster, up 7p to 490p. Rank Organisation eased 2p to 364p in spite of a recommendation from James Capel, while a Beeson Gregory buy note left Regent Inns unchanged at 325p.

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SAATCHI & SAATCHI: SHARES SLIDE AFTER LOSS OF MARS ACCOUNT

both Europe and America. Matters have been made worse by the fact that a wave of video games hardware systems using compact disc technologies is due to be released in Europe and America this autumn.

Rhino Group, Britain's largest video and computer games retailer which has been hit by the competitive market conditions, lost 4p to 8p after it launched a £3.7 million rights issue, at 8p, to fund working capital requirements, and confirmed a fall into heavy losses.

CentreGold, the computer and video games distributor that joined the market in 1993 at a price of 125p, was still reeling from Tuesday's profit warning. It lost a further 12p to 49p, giving a hefty two-day loss of 49p - more than halving the company's market capitalisation.

A profits warning left Acas & Hutchison top lower at 240p as the edible oils company told its annual meeting that aggressive pricing and restructuring costs would leave the interim result below last year's level, though the dividend should be held.

Some of the day's biggest rises were on the Unlisted Securities Market. A technical rally saw Tropic Life jump 9p to 28p, while healthy interims helped lift former USM-listed company Frank Usher by 18p to 157p.

GILT-EDGED: Government stocks reversed early falls on relief that the Bank of England's £2 billion auction of 8.5 per cent Treasury stock due 2005 was oversubscribed 2.08 times, compared with earlier expectations of a mere 1.3-1.5 times cover. There were reports of reasonable foreign participation, in spite of political and currency uncertainties.

Sentiment was also buoyed after Alan Greenspan's comments indicated that the US economy is slowing, boosting bond markets worldwide, though gilts fared best. The March long gilt future added 12 ticks to £101 1/2, on heavy volume of 96,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, gains stretched to £1 among longer dated issues, while index-linked enjoyed rises of up to 4p.

NEW YORK: Wall Street shares, drawing reassurance from Mr Greenspan's testimony, held their gains at midday. The Dow was up 14.8 points at 3,978.77.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 3978.77 (+14.8)
S&P Composite 484.94 (+2.22)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 18106.65 (+10.49)

Hong Kong:
Hang Seng 7909.27 (+173.02)

Amsterdam:
EOE index 408.40 (+1.60)

Sydney:
AO 1879.6 (+21.9)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2093.16 (+3.88)

Singapore:
Straits 2053.32 (+51.82)

Brussels:
General 6996.91 (+40.37)

Paris:
CAC-40 1804.37 (+1.25)

Zurich:
SIX Gen 624.60 (same)

London:
FT 30 2301.3 (+3.1)
FT 100 3019.5 (+3.9)
FT-SE Mid 350 3020.5 (+4.5)
FT-SE Europe 100 305.02 (+4.5)
FT A-All-Share 1493.09 (+2.9)
FT Non Financials 1617.32 (+1.4)
FT Gold Mines 198.4 (+3.3)
FT Food Interest 109.56 (+0.1)
FT Govt Secs 90.80 (+0.19)
Bulgaria 21012
SEAQ Volume 563.1M
US\$ (Datastream) 146.35 (+0.30)
US\$ (S&P) 104.04
German Mark 2.3314 (+0.0009)
Exchange Index 67.1 (+0.1)
Bank of England official rate (4pm) 1.2425
EBSR 1.0396
RPI 146.0 Jan (3.3%) Jan 1997-100

RECENT ISSUES

Bath Press (10)	13	...
Inv Tst of Inv T	86	...
Inv Tst of Inv T Wts	57	...
Lazard Birla Ida Wts	29	...
MCIT S Cap (35)	34	...
MCIT S Inc (35)	36	...
Mitsh Lloyds Inv (100)	79	...
Penix Oil	80	...
Photobition (150)	156	...
Wessex Trust	114	...
Woodchester Units	125	...

RIGHTS ISSUES

BTP n/p (225)	14	+
Bath Press n/p (10)	3	...
Cadbury Schwe N n/p 76	18	-
European Colour n/p (57)	18	-
Nai Home Lns n/p (110)	4	...
Shorro n/p (90)	2	-

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:		
Nat West	490p (+7p)	
Laporte	831p (+5p)	
Copymore	160p (+10p)	
Eurochem	418p (+18p)	
Bluebird Toys	253p (+6p)	
Thom EMI	1039p (+11p)	
FALLS:		
Kleinwort Benson	821p (-14p)	
HSBC	548p (-18p)	
CRH	359p (-8p)	
Bluebird Toys	474p (-5p)	
Smithline	479p (-5p)	
Zeneca	574p (-18p)	
Gleco	830p (-4p)	
Adcoene	285p (-7p)	
Brit Biotech	484p (-13p)	
RMC Group	920p (-9p)	
Radland	434p (-5p)	
Jardine Math	253p (-10p)	
Hatch Whamp	253p (-7p)	
Mitl	222p (-9p)	
Beaufort	300p (-6p)	
FKI	137p (-5p)	
Alstom	415p (-5p)	

Closing Prices Page 28

TEMPUS

Clearing the decks

LORDS White and Hanson are presiding over the sale of the century but it is hardly a bonanza for shareholders. Hanson's move to sell 34 American businesses appears to be driven by impatience. Packaging the unwanted companies up and thrusting them into a newly formed company leaves Hanson sitting pretty. It is now well placed to make a significant acquisition and no doubt will.

But Hanson can hardly claim to be receiving the best value for the businesses since a slow trade sale would surely have raised more. Nor is it to the advantage of small shareholders to be left holding shares in a highly geared American organisation.

The company, US Industries, will have gearing of 400 per cent and does not expect to pay even a notional dividend for two years. Its businesses are a rag-bag. The best is Jacuzzi,

the bath products business. But of the 34 businesses, only about 12 are sizeable - leaving 22 flagged for a possible sale.

The businesses generate about \$133 million a year in cash, which together with disposal proceeds and the non-payment of dividends should lead to a swift reduction in the debt. Then, in Hanson style, USI plans to acquire.

USI may have an attractive future. Based on pro forma profit after interest and tax of \$81 million and a p/e of 12 times, it could have a market capitalisation of about £1 billion. This equates to a share price of \$18.8. Shareholders will get only one USI share for 100 Hanson shares held, leaving thousands of small shareholders with illiquid holdings.

Hanson is providing a 60-day trading facility for small shareholders. Unsophisticated investors should take advantage.

Northern Electric

THE end game in Trafalgar House's bid for Northern Electric is in sight. Today or tomorrow Trafalgar will issue its final bid for Northern to beat the Takeover Panel's deadline. Then investors will have to weigh up the choice between a mountain of cash and paper from Trafalgar, or quite a lot of cash and paper from Northern.

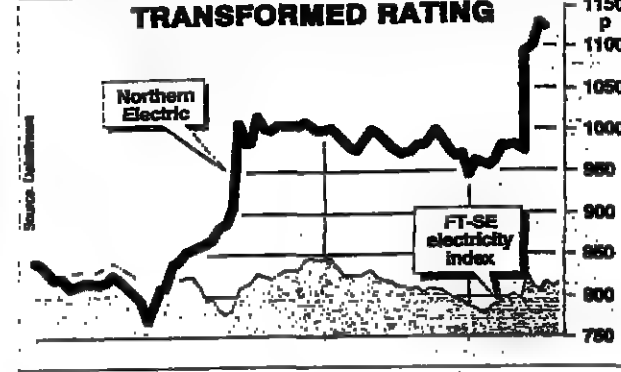
Owning shares in Northern at the moment is the nearest thing to a one-way bet for investors are ever likely to see. The generous package of sweeteners would be difficult to refuse if Trafalgar was not so desperate to harness Northern's earnings stream to its tax losses.

Recently, the battle has begun to focus on price. Northern has naturally been

talking up its value as high as possible, and its sweetener package has removed any chance that Trafalgar will be able to buy it on the cheap. Trafalgar, meanwhile, has been pleading poverty, even though Hongkong Land, in the background, would be able to assist in underwriting a considerably higher offer.

The likeliest compromise is

that Trafalgar will offer around £12 a share. It could well offer less and be accepted by institutional investors, who are dying for this bid to spark a wholesale auction in the sector. Given the heat the DTI refusal to refer Trafalgar's offer has generated, however, the Government may not wave through more bids in the sector so easily.



General Cable

INVESTORS could be forgiven for being wary of General Cable. This was the company that built up high expectations for its flotation last spring, only to cancel the plan. Yesterday, only a week after saying that flotation was back on track, it disclosed losing a hefty £18.3 million in 1994.

Such fears may be overblown. None of Britain's major cable companies is reporting profits because they are all busy investing £5-billion-plus to complete their networks. General, owned by Compagnie Generale des Eaux, of France, attributes much of last year's loss to interest charges on money borrowed for its capital expenditure programme, and network depreciation.

General, in fact, may be more tempting than some rivals because it has the greatest exposure to the telephony market. More than half of its income revenue now comes

from residential and business telephony, whose margins are considerably more than cable TV's. The company says that each cable-phone customer generates £55 a month on average, against only £10 for a TV customer. It will no doubt make much of this fact if and when its float finally gets going.

MTM

FOR some time, MTM had too many businesses for its own good and for its bankers' well-being. Now that the company has been fundamentally stripped down and reorganised, it looks positively idle.

The disposal of the agrochemicals business last August left MTM with just one subsidiary, Colin Stewart Minchem, which it bought last April. The deal looks faultless, with the group already earning an annualised pre-tax return of 20 per cent on the £11.8 million purchase price.

MTM would love to repeat

its success, but further deals have proved elusive. Meanwhile, MTM's £16.7 million cash is earning an unacceptably low return in the bank.

There is no shortage of speciality chemical businesses on the market, after recent reorganisations by ICI and BP. However, many are priced unrealistically and others come with uncomfortable environmental liabilities. Nevertheless, MTM needs to find something or it risks having its recovery stalled. With a larger business base, MTM could acquire riskier, emerging businesses in search of higher returns. It cannot do that until it has built a firmer business foundation. However, MTM's current management have achieved much, and further acquisitions should not be beyond their wit. The shares do not look overpriced on 15 times adjusted earnings and could well strengthen after a deal.

Edited by NEIL BENNETT

COMMODITIES

LONDON COMMODITY EXCHANGE

Commodity	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Cocoa	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
Wheat	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
Soybeans	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
Oilseed	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057

GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES

Grain	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Wheat	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
Barley	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
Oats	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057

LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Financial	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
FT-SE 100	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
FT-SE 250	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
Three Month Sterling	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057

DOLLAR RATES

Currency	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Australia	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555
Belgium (Cm)	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555
Denmark	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555

OTHER STERLING

Currency	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
Argentina peso	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555
Australia dollar	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555
Bahian dinar	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555	1.546-1.555

FT-SE VOLUMES

Index	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb
FT-SE 100	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
FT-SE 250	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057
Three Month Sterling	1045-1046	1046-1047	1047-1048	1048-1049	1049-1050	1050-1051	1051-1052	1052-1053	1053-1054	1054-1055	1055-1056	1056-1057

LIFE OPTIONS

Option	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
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Governor of Bank kicks off a long overdue debate

ON TUESDAY night, Eddie George, the Governor of the Bank of England, delivered the speech on European monetary union that many British politicians and commentators had expected to hear two weeks before from Kenneth Clarke. The Chancellor's speech, billed at the time as the definitive statement of government policy on a single currency, was largely about politics, not economics.

As a result of the subsequent political turmoil, John Major banned all ministers from making "speculative statements" about Britain's attitude to a single currency. This ban foreclosed the "serious economic debate" on EMU the Chancellor had called for before it had

even begun. Mr George's speech, delivered to the Fondation Pescatore in Luxembourg, was read in advance by the Chancellor and should help to fill the intellectual vacuum left by the Cabinet's vow of silence. As a contribution to the debate the Chancellor has rightly demanded on one of the most important constitutional and economic issues that will have to be faced by whatever government emerges from the next election, we have decided to replace the usual Economic View with an abridgement of Mr George's speech.

The speech makes three crucial points that, so far, have been missing from most discussions of EMU.

□ A monetary union would not neces-

Anatole Kaletsky looks at the crucial points made by Eddie George in his speech on EMU

sarily involve the Ecu replacing national currencies. Marks, pounds and francs could remain the legal currencies of their countries even after monetary union. EMU could be achieved by "irrevocably locking" exchange rates and merging monetary policies in a European central bank. These changes would transform life for finance ministers and bankers, but they could be virtually invisible to the public. A monetary union that kept national

currencies in circulation could overcome one of the visceral sources of popular opposition to EMU. Mr George does not say this, but clearly it would be rash to assume that a single currency will never happen because the Germans will never give up "their mark".

□ The main economic advantage of EMU is not that it would make cross-border transactions cheaper or help tourists. These are minor benefits. The real case for EMU is about monetary

policy. Advocates of EMU must believe not only that it will eliminate the threat of currency fluctuations, but also that a European central bank would create a less inflationary environment in Europe than national policymakers. Given the historical record, Mr George is "inclined to agree".

□ There is, however, one major danger in monetary union. This is the possibility that economies will be locked together with "wide differences in structural unemployment". If there is no possibility of exchange-rate adjustment, and only one monetary policy, designed to maintain stable prices across Europe as a whole, there will be only two ways to deal with huge differences in unemploy-

ment rates between countries such as Germany and Spain. Either there would have to be mass migration or large fiscal transfers. Both of these would create political and economic disharmony within Europe, instead of bringing countries closer together. But the alternative of long-term stagnation in some countries would be equally disturbing.

Mr George hardly touches on several other crucial arguments about EMU: for example, its implications for national fiscal sovereignty; or the differential impact on different countries of economic shocks that might hit after monetary union takes place. But his Luxembourg speech offers an excellent starting point for a long overdue debate.

'Monetary union would be enormous step'

Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, on the economic arguments for and against a single currency

The inspiration that lay behind the concept of "Europe" was, above all, the need to ensure that Europe could never be devastated by war again. This meant achieving political harmony within Europe.

But there is also an economic dimension to "Europe". There are, potentially, very considerable economic benefits to be achieved through economic and monetary co-operation within Europe. But there are equally economic risks in seeking to go too far, too fast. Steps towards economic and monetary union within Europe (EMU) should be debated on their economic merits and economic issues should not be lost sight of in the heat of the broader political debate.

If we ask why we should be contemplating a move to monetary union, the economic as distinct from the possible political answer would have to be that the permanent elimination of exchange-rate fluctuations between the member states would promote economic prosperity within Europe by increasing further the benefits from the single European market.

Let me first define more precisely what I mean by monetary union. Most people think immediately of monetary union and a single currency in terms of the replacement of familiar national banknotes and coins by common European banknotes and coins.

They think of familiar national currency prices of goods and services being redenominated in an unfamiliar European currency unit. This is understandable; but it seems to me to be unfortunate because, like so many aspects of the European debate, it immediately arouses political and popular sensitivities that obscure the more fundamental economic issues.

From the economic perspective, monetary union requires the irrevocable locking of exchange rates and a single monetary policy (that is effectively uniform short-term interest rates) independently pursued by a single monetary authority, the European central bank (ECB).

It would be possible for national currencies to continue to be used alongside, or instead of, the European currency unit for a generation — even, in principle, indefinitely. And in practice, there is bound to be a relatively long transitional period during which this occurs.

It may be that, as a matter of convenience, people would choose to switch from their national currencies to a common currency quite rapidly. But it is important that the debate about monetary union does not become bogged down in the

technicalities of a single currency at the expense of the more fundamental issue of whether irrevocably to fix exchange rates in the first place.

So what then are the potential benefits and the possible risks of monetary union in this more fundamental sense? I start with the potential advantages. Sustained monetary and exchange-rate stability within the EU is wholly desirable and would substantially increase the benefits of the single market. Monetary stability is desirable in itself. And it contributes to real exchange-rate stability, encouraging investment to be located where, within the EU, it is most productive.

How far monetary union would contribute to this is a matter of degree. Countries individually have a strong national interest in pursuing monetary stability quite independently of the European dimension. And if we were all individually successful in pursuing domestic monetary stability then that would help to produce some measure of exchange-rate stability.

The economic argument for monetary union is that it would deliver greater union-wide stability in practice and that it would carry greater conviction with investors. Given past experience of both domestic and exchange-rate instability within the countries of Europe, I am inclined to agree.

The Maastricht treaty logically imposes continuing constraints on excessive overall fiscal deficits although within those constraints, overall fiscal policy as well as decisions on taxation and expenditure separately are matters for national governments. Given this, and given that monetary union removes the safety valve of exchange-rate realignment within Europe, persistent relative inflationary pressures in one part of the monetary union would tend to be punished by falling economic activity and rising unemployment. That realisation ought to make inflationary behaviour in the private sector too less likely than hitherto.

Even so, monetary stability within Europe would not be guaranteed. It would depend on how successfully the independent ECB pursued its mandate. But there is no reason to suppose that it would be less successful than independent national policies, rather the reverse.

Some people argue that even if, as a matter of degree, monetary union did make for greater monetary stability within Europe, national acceptance of such a strong external discipline would be a high price to pay. That, of course, is intrinsically a political judgment. But it would be a mistake to imagine that the discipline of



Eddie George says economic issues should not be lost sight of in the heat of the political debate

monetary stability could be avoided without monetary union. If anything, that discipline would be more important for countries that did not participate because they would have to demonstrate that remaining outside monetary union was not simply seen as a soft option. Otherwise, they would be likely to suffer in terms of financial and physical investment and their economies would remain vulnerable to disruptive intra-European capital flows.

While European monetary stability can, in principle, be achieved without monetary union, and while this could deliver de facto relative exchange-rate stability, this would not provide the business commun-

ity with certainty about intra-European exchange rates over the medium and long term. That would be a unique advantage of monetary union. Similarly, monetary union — even without a single currency — would yield some benefits in terms of transaction costs. But while this is undoubtedly a factor on the plus side, it is certainly not significant enough on its own to be decisive.

What then is the economic case on the other side? Essentially, the argument is that there are, and could continue to be, significant economic differences between the member countries of the European Union that could cause tensions between them that would be diffi-

cult to relieve without the continuing possibility of exchange-rate adjustment between the member currencies. The monetary policy appropriate in some countries would be inappropriate in others, leaving the European central bank in a dilemma as to what monetary policy to pursue. People point to the problems that arose within the ERM as a result of the economic "shock" of (German) reunification as an example of the sort of tensions that could arise. It is possible to envisage other shocks that could have similar asymmetrical effects.

The possibility of inadequate convergence is explicitly recognised in the Maastricht treaty, which lays down, more or less, precise criteria

to ensure that conjunctural convergence, at least, is achieved before any move to the irrevocable locking of exchange rates. There is a concern that the Maastricht convergence criteria are not in themselves sufficient. The worry is that it may be possible for a country to meet the Maastricht criteria at a particular point in time, but with no assurance that such convergence could be sustained in the medium and long term.

This concern has increased with the growing recognition of serious disequilibrium in the European economy reflected in the very high levels of unemployment almost everywhere but differing substantially from one country to another. The problem of unemployment is now acknowledged almost everywhere as much the most urgent problem currently facing Europe. Some part of the problem is certainly cyclical, though we do not know just how much of it is cyclical in any particular case. That in itself makes the Maastricht convergence more difficult to interpret.

But to differing degrees in different countries much of the present unemployment is more fundamental and is unlikely to be eroded by the present cyclical expansion. This longer term problem of unemployment reflects, at least in part, structural features of the European labour market, which also differ from one country to another. It will not easily go away. And it could, in fact, become more difficult to resolve within monetary union as a result of on-going differences between member countries, for example, differences in rates of productivity growth, or unrelated differences in earnings growth, or divergent demographic trends and dependency ratios.

I do not think anyone can really know how all of this will evolve over the next few years. It is possible that we will see clearer evidence of real convergence between some countries anyway. But we cannot, at this stage at least, rely on that. It is precisely because this is so uncertain that it is difficult to know whether nominal convergence in the Maastricht sense really would be sustainable. Given the uncertainty, it cannot be excluded that resolution of the problem of wide differences in structural unemployment levels will ultimately require adjustments in relative real wages. And given the real-world inflexibility of nominal wages, it cannot be ruled out that there will be a continuing need for exchange-rate adjustment to help to bring that about.

I do not suggest that the Maastricht criteria should be changed to take account of all this. I am concerned with the substance rather than the form. The important thing is that we should be confident that convergence is real and is sustainable before moving forward. It is in no one's interest for that decision to be fudged. If it were

to be fudged, the costs could be substantial. The European central bank is, quite rightly, required by its statute to set the single monetary policy so as to maintain price stability in the monetary union as a whole. In that case, and if inadequate sustainable convergence were not to result in long-term stagnation and unemployment in some parts of the union, there really are only two possible adjustment mechanisms.

First, there is the possibility of migration from areas of high unemployment to areas of lower unemployment. This possibility already exists in principle. But, in practice, labour mobility within the European Union remains limited. In 1992, less than 5 per cent of the total resident population in EU member countries was foreign, and only one third originated from other EU countries. Monetary union in the United States, for example, relies on much greater labour mobility than this implies.

Second, there could be pressure for larger fiscal transfers from countries with lower unemployment to countries where unemployment is higher. In fact, the size of the EU budget currently amounts to less than 1.25 per cent of EU gross domestic product (compared with an average of about 50 per cent of GDP accounted for by national government spending in EU countries).

Neither of these possibilities is particularly attractive. Either long-term stagnation in some countries or the rapid expansion of these adjustment mechanisms could become a source of political as well as economic disharmony within Europe, rather than monetary union acting as something that brings us closer together.

My purpose has been to identify the issues, not to point to conclusions. There are potential economic advantages in monetary union to the extent that it would increase economic and monetary stability within Europe and make the single market more effective. But there are also potential economic risks in moving ahead before sustainable convergence is assured. It would be an enormous step. A decision to take that step is, quite rightly, a decision that has to be taken through the political process.

It is not a decision that can or should be taken now. We all have our work cut out to achieve economic and monetary stability, and to address the problem of structural unemployment within Europe, through our independent national efforts and through European co-operation. And we have a great deal still to do in continuing to explore both the economic and technical conditions that would need to be met before any decision could be made. The important thing at this point is that we all carry forward this work patiently and with an open mind.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Caz nove top of the class

LIKE headmaster's prizes at the end of school year, Caznove (for the seventh year running) comes top of the class and wins the cup for being broker to the highest number of quoted clients. The Hemmington Scott Top Corporate Adviser tables, published in *The Hambro Company Guide*, also shows Caz top of the table of clients making the most profit, with an aggregate pre-tax tally of £19.8 billion. Runner-up, but several laps behind in both categories, is SG Warburg. The auditor with the most clients is KPMG Peat Marwick (397), though companies who make the most profit have their arithmetic ticked by Coopers & Lybrand. Among the band of financial advisers, SG Warburg, for the 22nd consecutive year, is the house with the most UK stock market clients, whose aggregate pre-tax profits, at £11.7 billion, were £5.63 billion ahead of number two, Lazard Brothers. Slaughter & May tops the client numbers table among solicitors, and in the PR brigade Financial Dynam-

ics again leads the pack with 113. However, Ludge is now only five behind. The headmaster's report on all others reads: "Must try harder".

Odd art

CREDIT Suisse celebrated the commissioning of several leading contemporary artists to adorn the walls of new dining rooms at its Canary Wharf HQ this week with a dinner for bankers, artists and critics. Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council, was on hand to praise the Swiss for their long-standing tradition of art collection and recalled his first visit to Switzerland "when our currency was strong" (no year given — Ed). And what about the art? "It is certainly an eclectic collection," one connoisseur commented. "Wooden clubs in the corner and some papier mâché musical scores are an odd selection."

Missed major

THE death last August of Major Michael Woodbine Parish will make the 1995 chairman's statements of the El Oro Mining and of The Exploration Company a little less colourful. The major's writings often am-



Sir Ian MacLaurin: an entertaining name

used, occasionally shocked, but were always required reading. He served the companies for 57 years, and was a master at writing his mind. In his last chairman's statement, he boomed: "I am sickened by the size of salaries that many of our business leaders seem fit to take, often £1 million or more a year, more than the earnings of a lifetime of many." He wrote in 1990 of "obscene rises" for executives of larger companies who "do

not have either harder work or greater responsibilities than those of smaller companies". And the major had a long memory. In 1991, he trawled back 34 years to berate the *Investors Chronicle* about a 1957 article that gave the thumbs down to his company's 21-rights issue and which appeared under the heading "Wanted: £100,000". "This reminded me of notices put up in glass frames outside police stations", he wrote, adding: "I

Juggling names of the famous

MORE on spell checkers. I've run the names of some of the good and the great through a spell check on my computer and have been entertained by the following: Lord (James) Hanson — Jammed Hanson; Kenneth Clarke — Kenet Clark; Sir Ian MacLaurin — Iambic Mazurka; Lord (Allen) Sheppard — Alledia Shep-herd; Maurice Saatchi — Malice Saint; Sir Nicholas Goodison — Nickels Goodies; Sir Geoffrey Mulcahy — Gentry Mulch; Roland (Tiny) Rowland — Rolled Tiny Rowan.

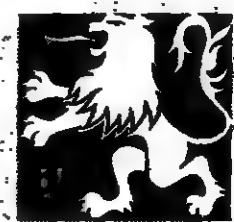
wonder how many of the recommendations of the *Investors Chronicle*, over a like period, show an appreciation of over 60 times. Robin, his son and now chairman, says fellow directors would often squirm at the drafts of his statements "but we were rarely able to change anything. Only occasionally did we need to correct the grammar." A hard act to follow, indeed.

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THE TIMES THURSDAY FEBRUARY 23 1995

THE ROYAL CANADIAN MOUNTED POLICE

RANK	FIRM	LOW COMPANY	PRICE PER SHARE	CHG. %	PERCENTAGE	RANK	FIRM	LOW COMPANY	PRICE PER SHARE	CHG. %	PERCENTAGE
75	200	Cardinal	250	23	113	114	71	Pharm Corp	9	46	145
76	530	Cardinal	250	17	64	115	72	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
77	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	116	73	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
78	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	117	74	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
79	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	118	75	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
80	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	119	76	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
81	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	120	77	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
82	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	121	78	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
83	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	122	79	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
84	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	123	80	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
85	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	124	81	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
86	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	125	82	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
87	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	126	83	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
88	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	127	84	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
89	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	128	85	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
90	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	129	86	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
91	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	130	87	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
92	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	131	88	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
93	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	132	89	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
94	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	133	90	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
95	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	134	91	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
96	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	135	92	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
97	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	136	93	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
98	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	137	94	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
99	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	138	95	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
100	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	139	96	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
101	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	140	97	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
102	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	141	98	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
103	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	142	99	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
104	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	143	100	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
105	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	144	101	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
106	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	145	102	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
107	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	146	103	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
108	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	147	104	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
109	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	148	105	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
110	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	149	106	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
111	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	150	107	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
112	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	151	108	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
113	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	152	109	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
114	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	153	110	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
115	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	154	111	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
116	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	155	112	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
117	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	156	113	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
118	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	157	114	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
119	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	158	115	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
120	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	159	116	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
121	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	160	117	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
122	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	161	118	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
123	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	162	119	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
124	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	163	120	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
125	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	164	121	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
126	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	165	122	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
127	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	166	123	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
128	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	167	124	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
129	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	168	125	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
130	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	169	126	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
131	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	170	127	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
132	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	171	128	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
133	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	172	129	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
134	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	173	130	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
135	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	174	131	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
136	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	175	132	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
137	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	176	133	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
138	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	177	134	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
139	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	178	135	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
140	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	179	136	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
141	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	180	137	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
142	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	181	138	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
143	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	182	139	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
144	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	183	140	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
145	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	184	141	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
146	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	185	142	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
147	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	186	143	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
148	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	187	144	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
149	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	188	145	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
150	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	189	146	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
151	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	190	147	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
152	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	191	148	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
153	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	192	149	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
154	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	193	150	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
155	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	194	151	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
156	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	195	152	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
157	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	196	153	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
158	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	197	154	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
159	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	198	155	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
160	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	199	156	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
161	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	200	157	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
162	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	201	158	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
163	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	202	159	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
164	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	203	160	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
165	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	204	161	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
166	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	205	162	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
167	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	206	163	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
168	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	207	164	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
169	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	208	165	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
170	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	209	166	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
171	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	210	167	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
172	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	211	168	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
173	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	212	169	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
174	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	213	170	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
175	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	214	171	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
176	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	215	172	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
177	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	216	173	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
178	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	217	174	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
179	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	218	175	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
180	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	219	176	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
181	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	220	177	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
182	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	221	178	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
183	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	222	179	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
184	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	223	180	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
185	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	224	181	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
186	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	225	182	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
187	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	226	183	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
188	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	227	184	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
189	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	228	185	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
190	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	229	186	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
191	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	230	187	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
192	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	231	188	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
193	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	232	189	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
194	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	233	190	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
195	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	234	191	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
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197	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	236	193	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
198	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	237	194	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
199	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	238	195	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
200	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	239	196	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
201	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	240	197	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
202	200	Cardinal	250	17	64	241	198	Pharm Corp	115	152	41
203	200	Cardinal	250								

Source: Fitch

@ US\$; * Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex term
 Δ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex alt; § Ex capital distribution
 * Figures or report audited; ... No significant change
 Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index

INFORM

Reshaped Philips on course for growth

FROM MARK FULLER IN EINDHOVEN

PHILIPS ELECTRONICS has entered a new phase of profitable growth, the company said yesterday after reporting net earnings on ordinary operations more than doubled to 2.05 billion guilders (£388 million) in 1994, from 836 million guilders in 1993.

After five years of restructuring, involving some of the biggest job cuts in European industry, the Dutch consumer electronics giant can now concentrate on investment, growth and improving quality, Jan Timmer, its president said. The results were as good as he had hoped for, but profit levels still have some way to improve, he said.

The key consumer electronics division made a "spectacular recovery", returning to profit after several years of losses and despite continuing problems at Grundig, the German subsidiary. Professional systems and products was the only division not to contribute to group earnings, reflecting problems in Philips communications systems activities, Mr Timmer said.

Overall net profit edged up to 2.13 billion guilders, from

1.96 billion guilders a year earlier, reflecting a significant extraordinary gain in 1993 on the sale of a 35 per cent stake in a joint venture with Matsushita of Japan.

Philips proposes to raise its dividend by 75 cents, to 1.25 guilders, equivalent to a 21 per cent payout.

Turnover rose 4 per cent to 60.98 billion guilders from 58.82 billion guilders, with the components and semiconductor division leading with sales growth of 21 per cent.

Philips expects overall sales growth to continue in 1995, with an emphasis on Asia and Latin America, which outperformed Europe and North America last year. Philips plans to step up investment in Asia and the Pacific basin, a region it expects to be its fastest-growing market for the next ten years, as well as in Central and Eastern Europe.

The company is still struggling with price erosion and the slow recovery of the European economy. Germany, where P.K.I. Philips's other major loss-making subsidiary, is also based, has not recovered sufficiently and remains a problem, Mr Timmer said.

He tried to ease concern about Philips's new products, the digital compact cassette and compact disc interactive, whose sales, he conceded, have been slow. He said that Philips had adopted a trial marketing approach for DCC, while the target of one million CD-I players by end-1994 would be achieved soon. "Philips has a very broad product range and we have to watch out for putting a couple of glamour products in a strange perspective," he said.

The debt/equity ratio was 31 per cent at end-1994, against 40 per cent a year earlier.



Timmer: investment aim



Anne Bruh, managing director, and Christopher Norland are happy with orders for the spring/summer collections

Frank Usher buoyant at half time

FRANK USHER, the USM-quoted designer and maker of dresses and special occasion wear, enjoyed a buoyant first half, with pre-tax profits rising by 64 per cent to £1.02 million from £623,000 in the six months to November 30. Turnover increased 24 per cent to £11.5 million from £9.3 million.

Christopher Norland, chairman, said greater efficiency had led to an increase in gross margins and had improved the company's ability to gain repeat business.

Mr Norland said orders for the spring/summer collections were very satisfactory and he predicted further progress in the second half. The interim dividend is lifted to 3.5p (2.5p) and will be paid on April 3.

Acorn seeks £17m to fund product development

BY MARTIN BARROW, CITY NEWS EDITOR

ACORN Computer Group is raising £17.2 million to fund the development of new products aimed at the growing multi-media market.

The funds raised will be invested in the company's Online Media division, which has developed an intelligent digital "set-top box" to receive, decode, manage and distribute interactive multi-media services.

Online Media is taking part in a trial of online interactive services currently running in Cambridge, which also involves ICL, Anglia Television, Cambridge Cable and Inde-

pendent Television News. Acorn, which until now has specialised in the development of computers for schools, believes the developing market for interactive multi-media products is vast.

Increasing numbers of schools, homes and offices are discovering the benefits of the combination of a computer, television and the use of interactive services and video-on-demand.

Independent forecasts estimate the number of video-on-demand subscribers in Europe will increase from

about 40,000 at the end of 1995 to 4.6 million by the end of the year 2000.

Shareholders are offered one new share for every three already held at 80p each. Existing shares fell 4p to 91p.

Olivetti, which has a 78 per cent interest in Acorn, has agreed not to subscribe for new shares, allowing its interest to fall to 58.9 per cent.

Acorn also disclosed losses of £3.4 million before tax in 1994, compared with profits of £115,000. The loss was 4.9p a share, compared with earnings of 0.2p. There is again no dividend.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

TBI to buy Cardiff airport for £30m

TBI, the Cardiff property company, has defeated National Express, the coach operator, in a battle for the ownership of Cardiff-Wales Airport. TBI announced yesterday that it had been chosen as the preferred bidder for the airport by KPMG, the accountancy firm handling the sale.

TBI is thought to have bid about £30 million for the airport, close to its net asset value, making it the most expensive sale of a regional airport so far. National Express, which recently bought Bournemouth airport, is believed to have bid several million pounds less. TBI was also chosen for its commitment to retain the airport's employees and its development plans for the airport. It said the acquisition will be funded by a mixture of debt and equity, suggesting the company may hold a rights issue. The airport is being sold by Mid, West and South Glamorgan county councils.

Rhino calls for £3.7m

RHINO GROUP, the computer games retailer, is urging shareholders to back a £3.7 million rights issue, after incurring losses of £2.6 million (£1.13 million profit). The 1994 loss will result in a cash shortfall in the current year and without the call, Rhino will be unable to fund working capital requirements. New shares are being offered at 8p each, against Tuesday's closing price of 12p, on the basis of three for every five existing shares held. The loss per share was 3.06p (1.45p earnings). No dividend is proposed (0.5p).

Oliver restores payout

THE Oliver Group, the shoe retailing company, is restoring a dividend, recommending a payment of 1p, after a recovery in pre-tax profits to £1.6 million in the year to December 31, from £244,000 in the previous 12 months. Earnings per share were 6.05p (1.49p). Turnover rose to £75.24 million (£73.65 million), with like-for-like sales growth of 12.1 per cent. At the year end, the company traded from 340 stores. Net debt rose to £14.9 million (£12.8 million), with gearing at 63.6 per cent (58 per cent). Graham Dunn has resigned as managing director.

NTT confirms C&W deal

NIPPON Telegraph and Telephone, the world's largest telecommunications company, yesterday confirmed that Cable and Wireless will buy a small stake in its new personal "handy phone" subsidiary. Handy phones are low-powered, inexpensive mobile-phones that connect to normal land lines indoors and to the cellular system when the user is outdoors. C&W, whose Hong Kong subsidiary has tested handy phones, expects to invest "tens of millions" of pounds for a stake of between 5 and 10 per cent.

United buys trade events

UNITED NEWSPAPERS has expanded its trade fair business in Asia by buying 12 events from Headway Trade Fairs for £11.4 million. The Headway fairs cover events promoting goods ranging from fashion items to furniture, and earned profits of £1.3 million before tax on gross revenues of £6.19 million in 1994. The fairs are staged in Hong Kong, Peking, Guangzhou and Hamburg. United will integrate the business into its 20-show Hong Kong International Trade Fair Group.

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ACCOUNTANCY

Getting brand strategy right

David Haigh on achieving effective branding in professional services

Advertising agencies generally make a mess of their branding, with names that change as egos and networks wax and wane. Is this because they think branding is less important in business-to-business markets? If so, a BMS Total Research report, *The Value of Brand Equity: Capitalising on Brand Names in Business Markets*, demonstrates the opposite. In car rental, desktop computers, transatlantic airlines and international hotels, the strongest brands, Hertz, IBM, British Airways and Hilton respectively, commanded a 10 to 20 per cent price premium over the next most powerful. It is hard to believe that the same does not apply in professional services.

What do such brands deliver? At one level, methodologies, technical skills, past experience and a physical network capability and, at a second, intangibles such as stability, continuity, staff personality and the firm's culture and attitudes. At a third level, there is peace of mind.

Resistance to change and a willingness to pay higher fees are facts of life in the accountancy and legal fields. Pressure from banks, boards and investors reinforces this. Try recom-

mending an unheard-of firm to directors who have heard only of the brand leader. It is human nature to take the line of least resistance, even if it costs more. The final ingredient of brands is self-expression. Raybans, Mont Blanc and Armani say things that Polaroid, Platinium and St Michael never will. With professional services, the buyer is expressing corporate and personal ambitions.

Can effective branding really add 10-20 per cent to fees? Strong professional brands have maintained their earnings when one might have expected a flight to flexible, lower-cost firms. In spite of the recession, the advantage still lies with world brands such as Price Waterhouse.

Small firms must develop brand loyalty in the way small advertising, PR and strategy consulting firms do. Price alone will not overcome established brand loyalty. The need is to elicit emotional responses from targeted clients.

Yet, many firms seem prepared to compromise their brands in spite of the potential effect on external perceptions. Just as many professionals were sceptical about the concept of brand valuation when it was pioneered by Inter-



David Haigh believes small firms must develop brand loyalty

Brand, they often seem sceptical about the power of their own brands. The idea of spending money on research and brand strategy is unthinkable.

Mergers throw up the strangest results, such as Le Brasseur J Tickle in the legal field, Grimley JK Eve in surveying and, of course, KPMG Peat Marwick McLintock. They are often rationalised in a confusing way. I frequently find it hard to remember what some firms

are currently called. Perhaps more puzzling is the game of professional musical chairs. When Binder Hamlyn decided to "merge" with Arthur Andersen it set off a series of realignments, with Stoy Hayward taking Binder's place in the BDO network and Clark Whitehill taking Stoy's place in Horwath International.

But network brands can survive the firms that created them. Many are little more than co-operative associations

that make the imposition of standards at the technical training, communication or branding level difficult.

MacIntyre Strater International is a loose association that works well. Set up in 1989, MSI is now the world's largest multi-disciplinary network. Its 64 firms in 35 countries work on the principle that independent, medium-sized firms of accountants and lawyers, linked together through an international association are best placed to offer a complete service to medium-sized and owner-managed businesses.

Does it matter whether a corporate identity is used consistently around the world? Or whether an established name is altered in a merger? How can identities be changed without offending clients and staff? Many partners still do not take these questions seriously. Ignoring or fudging the issue can be far more costly than getting brand strategy right first time.

Just as branding consultants and evaluation techniques have matured, branding is maturing in the professional marketplace. But it demands time, resources and an independent perspective.

David Haigh is a Chartered Accountant, a Fellow of the Institute of Marketing and the author of *Strategic Control of Marketing Finance* (FT/Pitman Publishing 1994).

Tax minister sees the light on reform

THE condemnation is universal. The Finance Bill progressing through Parliament is a disgrace. "The Bill contains yet more examples of appalling drafting which has reached new depths of obscurity," Adam Broke, chairman of the technical committee of the English ICA's tax faculty, has said. The Chartered Institute of Taxation (CIOT) has said that "the darkness of obscurity and complexity envelops the Bill". Criticism of the way that tax legislation reaches the statute books has reached a peak.

Last week the minister responsible seemed to be agreeing. At a conference on the Bill organised by the Institute, Sir George Young, Financial Secretary to the Treasury, said: "Coming new to tax legislation, I must confess that I was struck by the complexity of some of the legislation and by the volume of it."

Then he went considerably further than any of his predecessors. "I share the view," he continued, "which the institute has voiced on a number of occasions, that the time has come seriously to consider what might be done to simplify the tax system for practitioners, the individual taxpayers and ministers."

As far as anyone can recall, this is the first time that a minister has said such things. People started wondering where the hidden agenda might lurk. But no. The minister continued.

He referred to efforts by Australia and New Zealand to rewrite their tax codes in a more user-friendly format. He complimented the UK's Institute of Fiscal Studies, whose recently formed tax law review committee will try a similar exercise. The Government would be giving that work active and enthusiastic support. He concluded: "Bringing these various strands together will enable the Government to come to a view on how this issue can best be taken forward."

Sir George could also support an amendment to the Finance Bill which was tabled while he was speaking. This would create a standing body called the Tax Law Commission, operating in much the same way as the existing Law Commission. Indeed, Tim Smith, the chartered accountant MP who has campaigned on this topic for years and whose amendment it is, admits that much of the proposed legislation is modelled on that of the Law Commission.

Under the amendment, a Tax Law Commission would be set up with a QC at its head and with four other commissioners. It would "keep under review taxation law with a view to its systematic development and reform, including in particular the codification of such law, the elimination of anomalies, the repeal of obsolete and unnecessary enactments, the reduction of the number of separate enactments and generally the simplification and modernisation of the law".

Mr Smith's point is that it is all very well for the new tax law review committee to produce its work, but the Inland Revenue is only under a moral duty to take note of what it advocates. What is required is a body having an element of independence, but closer to the heart of Parliament, so that it would be harder for the Revenue to ignore its proposals.

Mr Smith suggests that the commissioners would be tax practitioners, people from industry and people from the Inland Revenue. "It would set its own work programme," he suggested. "It could then take a particular area of tax, like stamp duty for example, bring together all the law in the area, ask for comments and then produce proposals. There would be further discussion and then it could produce a draft Bill and legislation, which would be published for any final discussion."

The key difference would be that the Treasury could reject the proposals, but it would be very hard, having gone through that process, for it to do so. As Mr Smith pointed out, the Law Commission's proposals tend to be accepted.

Mr Smith's amendment has already started to command respect and support. Ernst & Young, which last year produced a notable broadside on the complexity of tax, *Pruning The Trifid*, has backed it. Andrew Jones, its national tax partner, has said: "It is an idea whose time has come."

Jan Luder, the CIOT president, said that a standing Tax Law Commission reporting to Parliament would be a far more telling advocate for coherent change than a Royal Commission, since it would be more difficult for ministers to ignore its recommendations. Mr Smith's amendment will be debated, on current progress, in mid-March. It would be much to Sir George's credit if, having admitted that the tax reform tide has turned, the Government were to support the amendment.



ROBERT BRUCE

Not always in the picture

PITY the poor sponsor. Some pick winners. Others do not. Ernst & Young have done well with their relationship with the Tate Gallery, sponsoring last year's Picasso exhibition, next year's Cézanne blockbuster and, now, the proposals for a new gallery amid the old Bankside power station. But shed a tear for the sponsor of the De Kooning show. Last week at a preview, packed galleries were plunged into darkness in a power cut. "The paintings were

so large you couldn't even grab one and do a runner," said one banking guest.

VAT chat

IT IS a sad reflection on our times, but the talk in sports clubs up and down the land is no longer about next week's game, extramarital affairs or the price of the beer. It is about VAT. Since it was announced that non-profit making clubs were due bonanza refunds of

VAT after a ruling that, since January 1, 1990, the law has been wrong, there has been much expectancy. Refunds could go to individual members or the clubs. Test cases are in the offing. Mike Fountain, VAT guru at Coopers & Lybrand, advises "caution".

Converted?

SHEILA MASTERS, the KPMG partner for whom the adjective ubiquitous seems to

have been coined, is at it again. Still in the running for election as the first woman to get her feet on the rungs of the presidential ladder at the English ICA, she last week popped up at Buckingham Palace. Last Thursday, she was one of eight of the great and the good to have lunch with the Queen. Protocol being what it is, we sadly have no record of what conversation took place between herself, the Queen and one of the other guests, Ellery

Hanley, superstar of the world of rugby league.

Shine on

THE English ICA is forever setting up committees to try to ensure that members are aware of the institute's vast range of services. But some are known only to insiders. One City-based member spotted recently denied that he was there for a committee meeting or even for a lunch. "There's a free shoe-cleaning kit in the gen's," he said.

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ART PRIZE page 34
How Wakefield's
Cathedral Precinct was
restyled with the help
of a painter's eye

ARTS

CD DIRECT page 35

This month's choice is
David Munrow, the Pied
Piper of Britain's
early-music revival



Stone killers not up to snuff

CINEMA:

Geoff Brown

would rather be
stuck in a lift
with Louis Malle
than get Stoned

In some ways James Ferman and his British Board of Film Classification colleagues did us a favour by delaying the release of *Natural Born Killers*. Removed from the initial hullabaloo, Oliver Stone's film looks less like the ground-breaking hallucinatory experience it seemed to excitable Americans and more like a tedious carnival ride. Is it shocking? No. Liable to prompt copycat behaviour from youths enamoured of Mickey and Mallory, the two warped lovers who casually shoot 52 people or thereabouts during a three-week rampage? No. Can it bore, cause a headache, insult the intelligence? Ah, now you're talking.

The problem is one of ends and means. Stone's goal, typically audacious given his position on Hollywood's front line, is a savage satire on the violence burning within our society and the way the media — films, television, tabloid journalism — fan the flames. The storyline was written by Quentin Tarantino. Mickey and Mallory, unloved Midwestern losers, fall in love, join forces and notch up their first corpses in diners and motels. Then the television show *American Maniacs* pounces, and its host, Wayne Gayle, a grating Australian obsessed with his ratings, makes them celebrities fit for the cover of *Time* magazine. When the law, equally lusty for the spotlight, rounds up this Bonnie and Clyde of the 1990s, Gayle claims his prize, a live interview with Mickey before the prisoner is removed to a hospital for the insane. The cameras rolling, Mickey calls himself a natural born killer, and, to the surprise of nobody in the audience, starts to show why all over again.

Satirising media excess and violence is relatively easy work. The difficulty comes in maintaining the satire's focus. Stone tries a risky, imaginative strategy, bombarding the viewer with rapid-fire images culled from the popular culture that he puts on trial, taking us inside the outlaws' heads. Mallory and Mickey's first meeting, for instance, is presented as a parody television sitcom, all coarse colour, intense close-ups and canned laughter.

Every technical trick in the book is used: the images come at us in every grain and hue, while the music that accompanies the killing spree ranges from the Shangri-Las' *Leader*



Demon lovers: Juliette Lewis and Woody Harrelson as the murderous Mallory and Mickey in Oliver Stone's controversial *Natural Born Killers*

of the Pack to Carmina Burana. Nothing quiet, of course.

In Stone's last virtuoso display piece, *JFK*, the technical fireworks served a firm dramatic purpose. Here they get horribly out of hand. The film's derivative storyline becomes almost obliterated: while Stone hammers his satirical points so relentlessly that he seems to share Gayle's withering view of his audience — "the nitwits out there in Zombieland". Given this cinematic frenzy, the actors have a lot to compete against, though Woody Harrelson and Juliette Lewis manage unsettling, intense performances as the demon lovers. Tommy Lee Jones (the prison warden) and Robert Downey Jr (the television journalist) fit Stone's approach better: they are both over-the-top, and terrible.

After Oliver Stone's blunderbuss, Robert Redford's attack on American television in *Quiz Show* has the force of an elegantly hurled paper dart. In 1958, news erupted of backstage corruption and rigged results on television quiz shows, including NBC's *Twenty-One*. Redford's film resurrects that particular scandal, which was prompted by a disgruntled contestant, Herbie Stempel, seeking revenge after being dethroned as the reigning champion.

Natural Born Killers

Odeon West End, 18, 119 mins
Wearisome excess from Oliver Stone

Quiz Show

Odeon Haymarket, 15, 133 mins
Robert Redford reveals dusty television scandals

The River Wild

Empire, 12, 112 mins
Meryl Streep becomes action woman

Lift to the Scaffold
Everyman, 92 mins
Louis Malle's classy first film revived

Stempel (John Turturro) was a working-class Jew from Brooklyn, awkward, unphotogenic, with bad teeth and glasses. The producers wanted a prettier puppet, and found one in Charles Van Doren (Ralph Fiennes), a university lecturer, a WASP dream, and offspring of a famous literary family. Seduced by promises of fame and fortune, he too gets fed the answers ahead of time. Class and race prejudice come into play, but Redford's chief concern is to mourn the

passing of civilised values, trampled underfoot by the new, crass television culture.

The set-up allows for amusing situations and fine performances across the board, from the slippery NBC producers and their sponsor (Martin Scorsese, no less) to the patrician Van Dorens (headed by Paul Scofield, no less), who face the world with raised eyebrows and a Shakespearean quote. Unfortunately, Redford is fighting a battle lost long ago, and it is hard to share his outrage at the tricks television played to give the public what they wanted: watching people win money. As Scofield's Mark Van Doren puts it, "Cheating on a quiz show — isn't that like plagiarising a comic script?"

Redford's exaggerated indignation leaves a hole at the film's centre: if we cannot see what the fuss is about, the plot's drama disappears. Luckily the actors do an excellent job disguising the vacuum for as long as possible. John Turturro is particularly memorable as the prickly Stempel, preening before a mirror in his weeks of glory ("Do you think I should get my teeth capped?"), seething with vengeance once he loses favour. Ralph Fiennes, riding high in Hollywood after *Schindler's List*, glides confidently through his role as the quiz show's Prince Charming, a television natural.

As usual when he turns director, Redford's visual contribution is low-key: he shoots the scene simply, and moves on. If the material is strong, this approach works well. But *Quiz Show* needs some extra bite; maybe Stone could have spared some of his relentless, cascading images?

Of the week's three Hollywood movies, only *The River Wild* delivers what most mainstream audiences want: a big, clear-cut plot; loudly orchestrated chunks of action; a larger-than-life experience. A family embarks on a white-water rafting holiday. Dad (David Strathairn) is a wimpy architect, who brings paper work with him. The hands on the tiller belong to Mom, Meryl Streep, a history teacher from a deaf-and-dumb school with the river in her blood. She reckons, however, without Kevin Bacon and John C. Reilly, nasty pieces of work who robbed a cattle auction, killed two people and are using the river to escape. Can

Meryl fend them off, save her young son, husband and dog, spout her lines, and keep the boat upright at the same time?

This sounds like a job for Schwarzenegger, but Meryl, sporting a new beefy physique, manages brilliantly and revels in the chance to play action woman. (Stunt doubles reportedly stepped in for just 10 per cent of her navigating.) Aside from the star's sex, director Curtis Hanson, responsible for *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, springs no surprises, but he makes the silly spectacle enjoyable. Nature plays its part, with a fine array of whirlpools, rapids and rocky crags. Go and have fun: and wear waterproof clothing.

While Streep battles against the great outdoors, Maurice Ronet, in Louis Malle's absorbing thriller *Lift to the*

Scaffold, spends his time stuck in a lift. This is more than inconvenient: the shady ex-paratrooper has just murdered his boss, an arms dealer and tycoon, slumped in his office a few floors up. Meanwhile Jeanne Moreau, Ronet's mistress and the boss's wife, is anxiously pacing the Paris streets, and two young fools take Ronet's car for a joyride.

The film, Malle's first, hails from 1957, but its ingenious plot holds up well. Time has lent an extra interest to the script's barbed comments about war and profiteering. There is also the improvised jazz score by Miles Davis: occasionally a distraction, but mostly a perfect complement to the grey, moody visuals of Henri Decat, leading cameraman of the emerging New Wave. A most enjoyable revival.

THEATRE: A small Mersey marvel

The estate of the nation

Everybody is stealing from everybody else on the Merseyside council estate where Michael Wynne's play is set. As someone says, things have gone so far that the locals have their own currency — not cash but nicked videos.

And how do you afford protection for yourself and your house? You spend a bit of your dole money on a burgled burglar alarm. The Royal Court has probably staged more plays about deprivation on and around municipal estates than any theatre in the world. The archetypal case would be Edward Bond's *Saved*, with its suggestion that the "brick desert" can turn young men into baby-killers. But Wynne's play, his first, is quite different. It is cool, observant, humorous, sad, and rather good.

Does it lack bite? Yes, if you mean slaving indignation. It is also free from ideological flag-waving. But that does not mean that Wynne is unconcerned about life in his home town of Birkenhead. Indeed, the play implies that unemployment is so widespread, crime so taken for granted, that to propagate "solutions" in a theatre in SW1 would be insulting. There is always a danger of overrating a new talent: but his matter-of-fact, uncondemning handling of the poor reminded me both of Chekhov and of O'Casey.

Certainly, the unpretentious matriarch at the centre, Eileen O'Brien's Norma, might have come from one of O'Casey's Dublin plays. She tries to resist the estate ethos, scripping for a video, which is stolen in the first scene. To reveal that one of the villains is her son Joseph (Richard Henders) is not to betray much, for Wynne shares it with us very soon. He is more interested in the reasons the boy burgles the family house and the effect this information will have on his mother.

The play does not overload the glum, leaden end of the scales. The reason Nor-

The Knocky Theatre Upstairs, Royal Court

ma's teenage daughter (Lynda Thornhill) is both weepy and financially flush is not that she is turning tricks, as Norma and we are lured into believing, but something much funnier and more banal. There is little self-pity and lots of human resilience in this bleak hole.

The occasion bringing the family together in Norma's backyard is her mother's 70th birthday. She is a dear, foul-mouthed old bat who has lied about her age and complains about the cake. But Norma's sister, Mary, is not just the salt of the earth but its pepper, ginger and chilli. She lives with a man on the run from the police, talks of reintroducing torture as the answer to crime, and some-



Montagu: terrific exuberance

how makes all around feel better about themselves.

She also provides a nice part for Felicity Montagu, who strips to a bikini and frolics about with terrific exuberance. Anyone who can create such a character is a true dramatist. Any dramatist who can write with such unsentimental sympathy is well worth watching.

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TIPPETT'S 'KING PRIAM' FROM ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA. TONIGHT 7:00PM-9:50PM.

A first sight there might seem something bizarre about an organisation as musical as *recherché* as *Watch Your Step*, but first impressions are often false.

For 20 years the summer opera festival centred on a former nunnery in Batignano, Tuscany, has been performing richly mixed repertoire — a mix of Handel and Mozart, long-forgotten pieces (Seri, fassello, Provenzale, anchor operas by Cesti), new works and important Italian premieres ranging from Tippett's *King Priam* to Beethoven's *Candide*. Perhaps Bagnato's finest hour was engaging Italo Calvino to write a script for Mozart's unmissable *Le Nozze di Figaro*, which has since been performed far and wide.

MUSICALS: Rodney Milnes looks forward to a rare performance of a neglected work by a Broadway master

First step worth watching



Irving Berlin: his first full-length show was a hit when originally staged in 1914, but has since been forgotten

It is into the "long-forgotten" category that *Watch Your Step* so neatly fits. Adam Pollock, artistic director and onetime beguiling of *Musica nel Chiostro*, is fascinated by works that have lapsed from public view for no reason other than pure chance, and Berlin's first full-length show fills the bill perfectly. "It was enormously successful when it was first performed on Broadway in 1914 and in London the following year, but has since been completely forgotten." That was the pattern then as much as for 17th- and early 18th-century opera: audiences were thirsty for new works rather than revivals of what they already knew. How times change.

Pollock chanced upon a vocal score of *Watch Your Step* in a second-hand shop in

circumstances and tastes — the 1915 West End staging ended with Kitchener waving farewell to troops departing for the trenches. Pollock unearthed four separate "authentic" scripts from which to make his own adaptation for Sunday's gala at Her Majesty's Theatre, and there definitely is a plot about people inheriting huge sums of money only if they can prove they have never been in love. *Watch Your Step* was also one of the very first original cast recordings, another measure of its success, which has been a help to Steven Edis in reconstructing the original orchestrations by Frank Sadler,

who also worked with Jerome Kern. But one of the prime attractions of the piece was an extended operatic parody, in which Berlin gives hits from *Faust*, *Bohème*, *Carmen*, *Rigoletto* and so on the ragtime treatment. "He sends them up only slightly," says Pollock, "and no one need be offended — we don't get the Liebestod in ragtime." (What a shame!)

In Pollock's script this section will be handed over to the "assistant conductor," Jane Glover, who relishes the prospect: "if you do it absolutely straight, it's incredibly witty." Glover is just one of the Batignano Allstars cast — half the young singers and directors in the land have worked at Pollock's agreeably eccentric festival, and at least three divas currently singing in

London are giving up their free Sunday for the good cause: Susan Bullock and Lesley Garrett (respectively the *Coliseum's* *Butterfly and the Whims*), and Marie McLaughlin (Covent Garden's *Musetta*). Henry Goodman also stars, John Caird directs, and the choreography is by Matthew Bourne of *Adventures in Motion Pictures*. It should be quite a show, and Berlin's daughter Linda will be there.

● *Watch Your Step* will be staged at Her Majesty's Theatre on Sunday at 8.00pm. Box-office tel: 0171-494 5051

CDDIRECT: Richard Morrison presents this month's choice, the early-music pioneer David Munrow

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Purcell, Binda Odes for Queen Mary Funeral Music for Queen Mary, Verse Anthems Orga. Music. Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, Early Music Consort of London, directed by Philip Liger and David Munrow. T029501

WHAT better introduction to England's greatest Baroque composer, Henry Purcell — in his thirtieth year — than this magnificent 2CD collection, which currently available only to Times readers. It shows Purcell at his most joyful in the cheerful Birthday Odes, *Comps Sons of Art* and *Love's Address*, as well as at his most solemn in the collection of Funeral Music that wrote for Queen Mary. Absoluted here are two of his greatest church compositions: the so-called "Bell" And, *Rejoice in the Lord*, and a magnificent *My Beloved Sp.*

Telemann suite for treble recorder and strings, *Saunders Concerto* in F for recorder and strings, Handel, *Concerto in F* for recorder and string.

David Harrow (recorder), Academy of St. Martin in the Fields, directed by Neville Marriner. T029502

IF ONLY I'd been playing the recorder I'd be in the instrument crop regularly in the repertoire of the 18th century, but is rare featured to such virtuosity as in the three concertos this recording, which is available in the shops. Tennant, Sammartini and Handel were contemporaries. The Handel work will be more familiar as an organ concerto, but Christopher Hogwood's reconstruction especially Munrow's recorder is notably legitimate but brilliant effective.

Praetorius, Dances from

Terpsichore, Motets from Musae Sioniae. St Albans Cathedral Choristers, Early Music Consort of London, directed by David Munrow. T029503

PRAETORIUS (1571-1621) lived during music's first golden age, when Palestrina, Byrd, Monteverdi, Gabrieli, Lassus, Gibbons and a host of other fine composers were thriving in churches or courts throughout Europe. Praetorius was very much a church composer: the glorious choral fantasias on Lutheran hymn tunes that are featured here are just a tiny sample of his 1,244 choral settings. Yet he was clearly alert to the most advanced and colourful instrumental traits of the age, as his splendidly catchy suite of dances, *Terpsichore*, demonstrates. David Munrow and his players capture superbly their vigour and ebullience.

The Art of the Netherlands. Early Music Consort of London, directed by David Munrow. T029504

In the late 15th and early 16th centuries the composers of the Low Countries were prized throughout Europe for the ingenuity and beauty of their music. In this extraordinary collection David Munrow chose what he considered to be typical motets, dance music and mass extracts of that great period, but with two particular emphases. The first was towards the towering figure of Josquin Desprez, who largely freed music from the austere scales of the medieval church; the second was towards music that showed off the dazzling skills of the Early Music Consort of London. Recorded shortly before Munrow's death, the collection is an unsurpassable testimonial to his genius.

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A true Renaissance man

THE TIMES



CD DIRECT

It is difficult to be objective about such things, but one could claim that the death of David Munrow sent a far greater shock-wave through British musical life than Benjamin Britten's death did a few months later. The tragic manner of Munrow's departing had something to do with that, of course. This spectacularly successful, charismatic and (apparently) carefree virtuoso had committed suicide, at the age of 33.

But there was also a feeling of business left unfinished, and now impossible to finish. Britten's great task — to give us a native operatic repertoire — was all but accomplished when he died. Munrow's mission, which was surely to popularise the wealth of music existing before symphony orchestras were invented, had hardly begun.

His years of pre-eminence had only started when he founded the Early Music Consort of London in 1967 — and nine years later he was dead. In that time his brilliant band of virtuosos had shown how it was possible not only to master archaic instruments and musical styles, but also to make them sound genuinely exciting to a wide public. When Munrow died, however, the energy seeped out of the whole medieval and Renaissance scene.

Instead, "early music" came to mean Baroque music played on period instruments, then Classical music. Today, it even means Romantic music. Real "early music", it turns out, needs a performer of Munrow's vision and flair to bridge the gap to modern audiences. No wonder that the title of his long-running and immensely popular Radio 3 programme, *Pied Piper*, seemed so appropriate. Munrow really was the figure leading us musical innocents into ever more strange and beguiling landscapes.

Nineteen years later, his qualities shine out of these CDs as vividly as if he had just stepped into the recording studio. His majestic technical assurance on whatever instrument he happened to pick up was, and is, astonishing. Shown, recorder, crumhorn: he could make them all sing and dance in a way that utterly disguised their "primitive" mechanisms. He stamped his personality on everything that he touched.

That was important: until Munrow came along, the common gibe among musicians was that only people who weren't good enough to get into symphony orchestras took up early instruments. Munrow banished such talk, and with it the "sandal and sherry" image of early music as something that well-meaning amateurs did at summer schools. As Sir Anthony Lewis observed after Munrow's death: "Gone was the



David Munrow: Pied Piper of early music, who stamped his personality on everything that he touched

unease that beset so many previous performances of earlier music — this was replaced by confidence and mastery that enabled the music to break through the veil of insecurity that had previously surrounded it."

But Munrow was more than a virtuoso. He was an attention-seeker in the best sense. Out of the vast reservoir of pre-1600 music, he chose pieces that would grab the ear, compel amazement, and thus change the "agenda" of modern musical life. He was not a

purist, and he sometimes doctored medieval music in a way that shocked purists. But purists don't, as a rule, change the world. Munrow did. He got noticed; more importantly, he got medieval music noticed, for the first time in five centuries.

He was much in demand for films and television — not just for obvious series such as the BBC's *Six Wives of Henry VIII*, but also for providing medieval soundtracks to such unlikely projects as John Boorman's sci-fi epic

Zardoz. And, as the recordings chosen here demonstrate, he ranged in his music-making from the earliest medieval dances to the concertos of Handel.

That showed his confidence, his exuberance and his extrovert genius. Something must have gone horribly wrong with all that in 1976. But you hear no inkling of the impending tragedy on these recordings. Instead the overwhelming emotion is of pure musical delight, irresistible and irreplaceable. He was truly a Pied Piper.

CONCERT: Jazz saxophone meets 15th-century choral music, with ravishing results

Blown down through the centuries

ORIGINALLY conceived by producer Manfred Eicher as he drove across the lava fields of Iceland in 1991, and recorded two years later in a west Austrian monastery, *Officium*, a collaboration between ECM label-mates Jan Garbarek and the Hilliard Ensemble, has swept all before it since its release last year.

Given the project's nature — sacred choral music ranging from chants to Renaissance motets embellished with saxophone improvisations — this success, even in a world which has recently taken Gregorian chants and Gorki to its heart, is a little surprising. Perhaps the least surprising aspect of the whole phenomenon

**Jan Garbarek/
Hilliard Ensemble
Festival Hall**

non is the presence of Garbarek himself, since he has never allowed himself to be unduly restricted by the conventions of any particular form of music.

Slightly more unexpected is the unequivocally accommodating attitude assumed by the Hilliard Ensemble, who might have been forgiven for questioning the wisdom of adding an instrument which has only been in existence for just over a century to music

first heard between 450 and 800 years ago.

Tenor John Potter, however, goes some way towards accounting for his ensemble's enthusiasm by pointing out that pre-Renaissance musical usage is shrouded in mystery, and poses the intriguing questions: "Are these great melodies the relics of a lost improvising tradition? And half a millennium earlier, were the monks improvising their Gregorian chants?"

Such speculation, however, is not essential to enjoyment of the ravishing sound heard by a packed, and at times rapturously reverential, Festival Hall audience. Whether adding his uncompromisingly tart

and harmonically adventurous soprano to an anonymous 14th-century Czech *Sanctus*, or hovering respectfully over Guillaume Dufay's 15th-century Ave maris stella, Garbarek enhanced the hushed beauty of all he touched.

His contributions to counter-tenor David James's plaintive rendering of Perotin's achingly lovely *Beata viscera* triumphantly vindicated his claim that, together, early music and jazz can achieve not simply a "crossover" success but that rarest of phenomena, a genuine and valuable musical cross-fertilisation.

CHRIS PARKER

OPERA

A cut below the rest

ROSSINI's perennial favourite remains one of the trickiest of classic operatic comedies to stage even adequately, given the constraints of its character and content and the nature of its musical style. Its problems are again illustrated in English Touring Opera's new production, brought to town at the start of a three-month tour to 16 other centres up and down the country, from Brighton to Carlisle, with sponsorship from Barclays Bank.

A lethargic overture conducted by Jonathan Darlington did not bode well for any later vivacity in a performance that seldom sparkled as it should, largely because of an orchestra which was less than polished although always eager to oblige. Moreover, that integration of voices and instruments by which one element responds to the other, bouncing lightly from words to notes and back, was only fitfully achieved, and then

**The Barber
of Seville
Sadler's Wells**

with more effort than sensibility.

Francis O'Connor contrived some effectively mobile sets topped by a cur-out Sevillian skyline, although they were strangely furnished to include a bed in the Act I reception room into which police and all piled for the "ensemble of confusion", but only a mattress on the floor in Act II for Rosina to while away the storm interlude, having been earlier kept prisoner in neck and wrist chains by a bondage-loving Bartolo.

Debra Stuart brought a flexible mezzo to Rosina's role, cautiously displayed in her first aria, which becomes *In my heart a voice has sung* in David Parry's English translation. Jonathan May was a gruff and thoroughly bad-tempered Bartolo, frock-coated in early-century costume design that had Adrian Clarke's volatile, capably sung figure, equipped with a common's vocal witless, kitted out in loud checks.

The main roles were completed by a thin-voiced Almaviva in Andrew Burden, a saturnine Basilio from Michael J. Pearson and a lively character study in Denise Mulholland's Berta, who deserved her aria. They were all victims of lacklustre direction by Martin Duncan, who even resorted to ensemble mugging in old-fashioned union gestures marking the beat, which one hoped had been buried with the old D'Oyly Carte prompt-books.

NOEL GOODWIN

ALL PRAISE RATTIGAN

LONDON

Apollo Theatre

INSPIRED by the relationship between Rex Harrison and his wife Kay Kendall Terence Rattigan's *In Praise of Love* is receiving its first full-length West End production, with Peter Bowles and Lisa Harrow in the parts taken by Harrison himself and Julie Harris on Broadway more than 20 years ago.

Bowles is best known for his many appearances on television, including the classic comedy *To the Manor Born*, alongside Penelope Keith, while Harrow has combined stage work with the Royal Shakespeare Company with small-screen work, the latest being the lead role in *Kavanagh QC*.

THE TIMES

THEATRE CLUB

Theatre Club members can buy two tickets for £20 (the normal price of a single ticket is £15), for Feb 27-28 and March 1-2 performances. To book, telephone 0171-494 5068; quoting your membership number. Membership of the Theatre Club costs £12.50 a year. To join, please ring 01206 791737. For general inquiries, call 0171-387 9673

History as the art of memory

Jonathan Clark applauds a critique from the old Left of smug historians who sneer at the 'heritage industry'

The "heritage industry" is a great con trick, merely the fig-leaf that radical individualism has pinned to the society which it has, in reality, cut off from its past. "Tradition" is only "invention", a "weapon of social control", the bogus creation of apologists for the established order. People who embrace the tawdry images of their past thus offered to them are doing something morally and politically contemptible. In the 1930s, they bought mock-Tudor semis when they should have been fighting fascism. In the 1980s, they added neo-Georgian front doors to their newly-privatised council houses when they should have been thrashing Thatcherism.

Grand narrative histories are no longer written; their exhaustion, and the rise of the heritage industry, are twin aspects of England's decline. Nostalgia is the degrading cultural symptom of national decay. The post-modern intelligentsia, at least, know that their age has parted company with its past; they reject its few survivals with superior smiles. What passes for history, they know, is only "constructed".

THEATRES OF MEMORY
Volume I
Past and Present in Contemporary Culture
By Raphael Samuel
Verso, £18.95

So say a well-known group of recent historians. They lay claim to a number of fashionable methodologies, but their titles to them are often doubtful. That, however, is not the point of their enterprise. Its point is not to recover the history of their nation, their religion or their culture, so much as to disparage it. A shared tone of voice identifies their writings. Let us call them the Sneerers.

The Sneerers have grown to occupy the high ground vacated in England by the hard Left; but they are lesser men. Scholars like Christopher Hill and E.P. Thompson, whatever their faults, had impressive lists of publications to their names, books which recovered in compelling, if tendentious, detail the richness of the lives of English men and women in past centuries.

But the hard Left painted itself into a political corner after 1979 and seemed to commit intellectual suicide in 1989. The field was open for the Sneerers, and they seized their opportunity with entrepreneurial flair (if

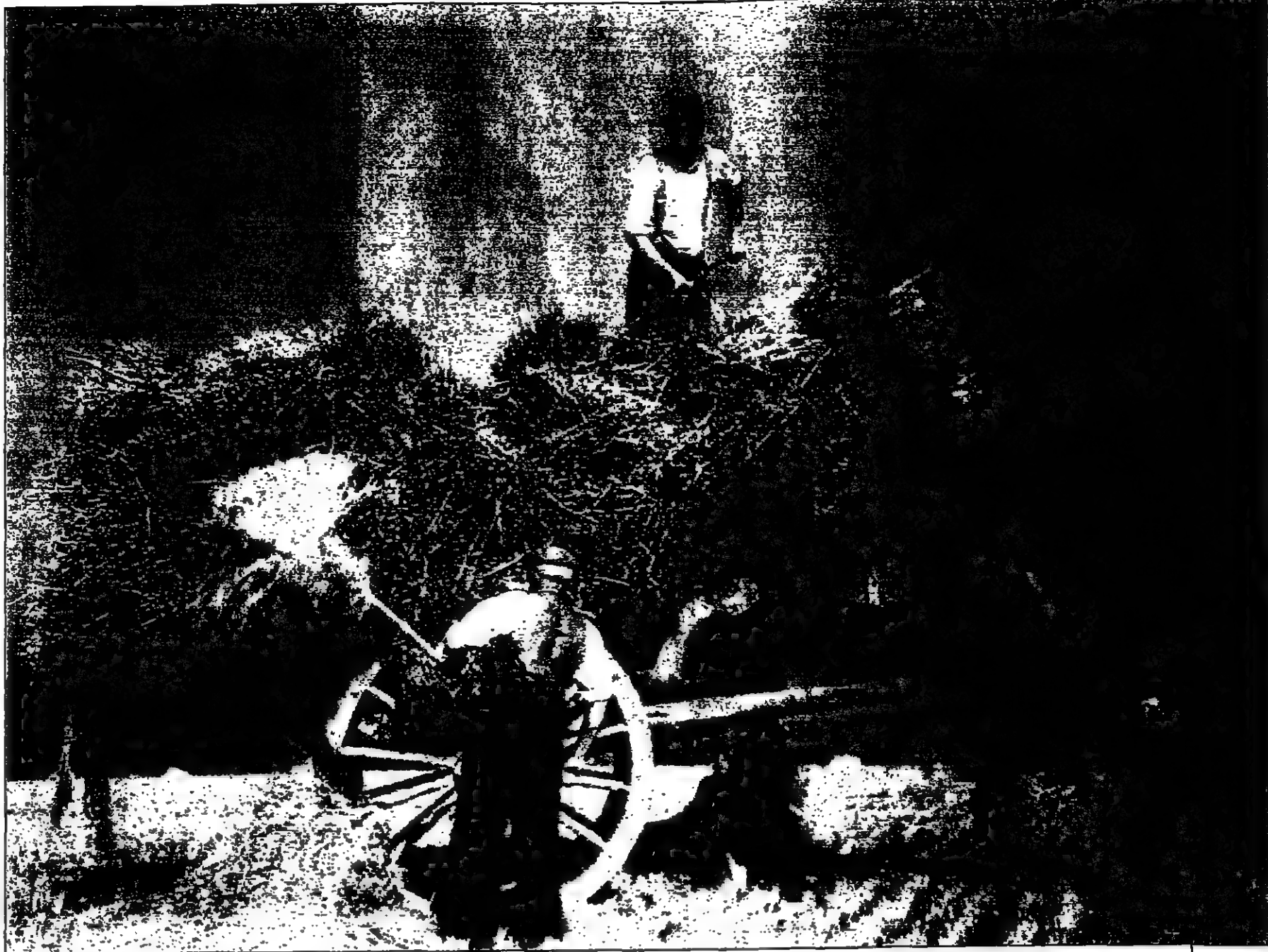
not always with significant scholarship). The Right in England attempted a defensive action, but managed at best a holding operation, secretly despairing of success.

None of the Right expected this devastating counterblast to the Sneerers from the old Left itself. Raphael Samuel, tutor at Ruskin College and founder of *History Workshop Journal*, has produced in *Theatres of Memory* a brilliant and compelling historical vision which not only reinvigorates a viable leftist historiography in England, but offers points of contact for professional scholarship from all points of the compass.

It comes as a shock to find a historian beginning his book by reminding us that "Mnemosyne, the goddess of memory, was also the goddess of wisdom, the mother of the muses... and therefore in the last analysis the progenitor of all the arts and sciences". By defining the role of the historian as the keeper of the national memory rather than as its deceiver, Samuel helps to re-establish history's place in a Western humanist culture — a role which the old Marxists and the new Sneerers in turn denied it.

History, for Samuel as for Frances Yates, is "the art of memory"; as for E.P. Thompson, it is rescuing the past from the "enormous condescension of posterity". Memory is "an active, shaping force", not "an image bank of the past". Memory is something legitimate, indeed honourable, not nostalgic escapism. The common thread in this astonishingly diverse collection of essays, itself the first of three volumes, is the way in which Englishmen in the last 50 years have encountered their past through memory.

This means studies of "the ways in which history is being re-written and re-conceptualised as a result of changes in the environment, innovations in the technologies of retrieval, and democratisations in the production and dissemination of knowledge". So Samuel takes us on a tour of "popular memory" at work in subjects as various as the "retrochic" movements of the 1980s, the craze for cleaned brickwork, natural trails,



History is now: pitching out sheaves at College Farm, Lidington, August 1944, from *Britain: The First Colour Photographs* by Roger Freeman (Blandford, £9.99)

industrial archaeology, the Jorvik Viking Centre, the cult of "Britain's Finest Hour" and much more.

Samuel is a populist, challenging Leopold von Ranke and the late Sir Geoffrey Elton by insisting that "history is not the prerogative of the historian". So his sources are closer to everyday life than the high academic history of the bourgeoisie. "Retrofiting", an essay on the cultural politics of interior decoration, draws on Formica advertisements, the *News of the World*, Laura Ashley and B&Q. But it is more

academic than it looks: behind it lies sophisticated antiquarianism and ethnography, and a subtle programme to bring this new antiquarianism to redress the balance of the old history.

He has a polemical purpose too: to discredit "the residues of that conspiracy theory according to which historical change is engineered by ruling elites, and popular taste is at the mercy of what 1960s and 1970s radicals took to calling the manipulations of 'the media'". Samuel has produced one of the most eloquent

critiques of this corrosive doctrine ever written from the Left.

In the process, he redresses the balance in favour of the heritage industry, too. Whatever the Sneerers say about deception and social control, Mr Average is right to want to feel in touch with "his" history. Thanks to this book, the versions of it on offer are likely to be more authentic ones. If Raphael Samuel were adopted as the in-house historian of the parliamentary Left, a Blair government might have intellectual foundations after all.

Too noisy and far too greedy

Donald Clarke's *The Rise and Fall of Popular Music* is an impassioned survey which takes in every genre from troubadour minstrelsy to heavy metal. Hightailing across it, he exhibits the lip-smacking gusto of an enthusiast, the data-hoarding instinct of a scholar and the verbal impudence of a journalist on the make.

It is the enthusiasm which explains why the book is so oddly poised between journalism and scholarship. Musicologists may well find themselves vexed by Clarke's habit of making snappy judgments and moving briskly on. In the chapter on Broadway, Clarke quotes as "one of the best examples in all music of a tune and the vernacular combining", Cole Porter's lyrics to "I Get a Kick Out of You". I don't suppose many readers will

checked for consistency, sometimes clash. In his discussion of the origins of popular music, he acknowledges the copiousness of its production in the time of Shakespeare (1564-1616), but posits 1690 as the date of the first popular song (music by Puff). But in any case, Purcell publishers were anxious that songs shouldn't be co-opted with "common" ballad might not this mean they had inherited the kind of popular music Cole Porter's and certainly not Bob Dylan's kind?

"The most sears rock acts," Clarke tells "do not include Phil Collins and Robert Plant." Whom, then, do they include? A considerable number of contemporary rock musicians satisfy Clarke's criteria of musically intelligent lyrics, memorable tunes, moderate amplification. One

Stephen Logan

THE RISE AND FALL OF POPULAR MUSIC
By Donald Clarke
Viking, £22.50

But the heartlands of this book are Chicago (home of swing-era jazz) and Broadway (as in musical). And that Clarke dislikes this part of the field too much to explore. The unplugged movement, which Clarke should approve of, is not noted, nor is the 1970s distinction between "commercial" pop and "progressive" rock.

The relevance of this to Clarke's argument is twofold. First, rock became massively loud partly in order to distinguish itself from pop music. Second, progressive rock was, for all its stupid excesses, a reaction against the money-grubbing commercialism which, Clarke says, has destroyed good popular music. Anyone who remembers watching such this as Free on *Top of the Pops* will know that it is perfectly possible to exhibit "we co-operating with the deaf music moguls, a wry self-protective cynicism."

He is an enthusiast who occasionally makes use of scholarship rather than a scholar occasionally wandering into enthusiasm. He isn't developing an argument, so much as demonstrating an attitude. He is winningly adept at wispish one-liners. Heavy metal is "the ultimate phoney rebellion", stadium-rockers "wave their arms in the air... like a giant beetle on its back" (with a glancing pun on Beatie, perhaps?).

His general view is most clearly expressed in the pronouncement that "Today's pop rock is a paradigm of a society that has no values." Strictly speaking, ours is not a society without values, but one without the sort of values Clarke would like to have. Similarly, there is no dearth of popular music: only of good popular music. Clarke doesn't tend to make his points explicitly. He makes them felt. His values are implicit in his verdicts.

Yet this method of arguing has dangers. Pedantry, at its noblest, is a form of self-watchfulness. Clarke's journalistic brio avoids the drabness of pedantry, but equally dispenses with the vigilance which is its better part. His local judgments, not having been adequately

thought of David Byt, Peter Gael and Neil Young (w/ "unplugged") Today of the go unmentioned.

But the heartlands of this book are Chicago (home of swing-era jazz) and Broadway (as in musical). And that Clarke dislikes this part of the field too much to explore. The unplugged movement, which Clarke should approve of, is not noted, nor is the 1970s distinction between "commercial" pop and "progressive" rock.

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But Clarke's drift never in doubt. Popular music is too rich defined by sales. Most of that is popular isn't any good (Michael Jackson, Mottley). What's any good isn't popular (some modern jazz). Clarke continually (as in his discussions of jazz) achieves rare synthesis which heinously and aspires to: "The sort of meticulous scholarship only a fan could produce." The book is a defence and celebration of truly popular music: the musicality, true musical scholarship. It is wise anti-egalitarian, and warty pro-democratic. As such, cannot be other than truly eging.

An artist neither of her time, nor of her place



In *Double Portrait No.2* of the painters Katharine Church and Anthony West (1937), Frances Hodgkins uses strong Matissean reds and bold Picassoesque linear effects

John Russell Taylor

FRANCES HODGKINS
Paintings and Drawings

By Iain Buchanan, Michael Dunn and Elizabeth Eastmond
Thames & Hudson, £22.50

POSSIBLY Frances Hodgkins did not lie about her age, but she certainly equivocated about which generation she belonged to. This was no doubt easy with people who did not know her, only her work. Indeed, it must have been almost inevitable. She exhibited alongside artists such as John Piper and the first generation of St Ives modernists. Her work seemed to fit automatically into this context. Why would one imagine that she had been born earlier than, say, the mid-1890s?

Hodgkins was actually born in New Zealand in 1869, and did not even visit Europe until she was 32. Although she was already reasonably well known in New Zealand before she finally left in 1913, this counted for little or nothing in Europe, and it was only natural that she should experience some kind of rebirth.

At the same time she was regarded in New Zealand with the mixture of pride and exasperation which seems to attend successful emigrants. This attitude has continued until today, nearly 50 years after her death: she has been studied, her letters have been

published, and she is widely recognised as New Zealand's most significant visual artist. But is she really a New Zealand artist? Not really, not quite.

Hence this book, written by three New Zealanders, who are probably interested in Hodgkins primarily because of her origins, but want to show an admirable lack of parochialism by studying her, as a whole. The curious thing is, that it does quite naturally read as a whole anyway.

She began with a good academic grounding from the visiting Italian painter Gino Lami. She worked herself in a solid Victorian illustrative mode: very much

where Picasso started. When she hit Europe, Europe hit her: she progressed very rapidly through Impressionism and Post-Impressionism to arrive at a sort of simple, prettily coloured Cubism, around 1924. She did not stay there very long, but the encounter affected her for the rest of her life, emboldening her to shuffle perspectives happily in those conventional still-lives for which she is now best remembered.

All this, though entirely unexpected, is with hindsight totally logical. It was mainly the accident of moving around a lot that enabled Hodgkins to be reborn several times, and each time to slough off her previous career so completely. It is more difficult to explain why she has been written out of the textbooks — especially the innumerable feminist textbooks about women's art. Moving around so much probably prevents posterity as well as contemporaries from pinning one down. This book should help to focus attention, not so much because the essays are enlightening (though they are), as because the fine colour illustrations are irresistible.

Why the black townships turn to the white witches

Zenga Longmore

AFRICAN WOMEN
Three Generations
By Mark Mathabane
Hamish Hamilton, £17.99

else. "You're a European coloured, so you just don't understand how we suffer at the hands of the blacks/whites/damn coloureds!" I was repeatedly informed.

After a day in Johannesburg, it transpired that they were right. I did not understand. Nothing made sense. The entire town seemed to be a sprawling Bedlam of dangerous inmates. By reading about black township women, I had hoped to glean a clearer understanding of the less rabid side of South African life. But after ploughing through 347 gore-filled pages, I had, alas, travelled no further down the road to enlightenment.

In *African Women*, Mark Mathabane has recorded the histories of his sister, mother and granny, who take turns, chapter by chapter in portraying their lives in Alexandra Township. Mother recalls that she was forced to marry a violent man, simply because her craven aunt desired the

suitors' lobola payments (dowry). "The day Jackson paid lobola for me, making me his wife," Mother laments, "was the most miserable day of my life. I wasn't in love with him. My heart belonged to someone else. But I was young, 17 years old, and my mother and Aunt Mariana conspired to determine my fate." Subsequent events swiftly revealed that being sold to a drunken, fist-happy womaniser was the very least of the problems of a township woman.

Sister was administered contraception by a cack-handed nurse, causing a lifetime of gynaecological problems, worsened by living in a damp, overcrowded, vermin-ridden

shack. All the women teetered on the brink of starvation, for employment was a possibility only for mothers willing to abandon their children and live in with their madams in the posh white suburbs.

The spirit of witchcraft haunted every township soul, causing deranged feelings of suspicion. Anyone who got on their neighbour's nerves — whether by doing well or supporting the wrong political party — was "obeahed", and invariably met a grisly end. The only way to avoid such a fate was to pay an extortionate sum to a white witch. But white witches do not always come up with the goods, as Granny was to find when her only brother died suddenly after being "obeahed" by a jealous woman.

Nor could witchcraft save a friend of the family, who was butchered by the African police during a riot. On night-time township raids, the police customarily burst into shacks,

shooting adults and children in a seemingly random manner. The remedy many of the sons and brothers used to combat the ills of township life was to obtain a knife or gun and become a gangster.

Unemployment in Alexandra stands at over 50 per cent. There is no welfare safety net or universal healthcare. Schooling is sporadic at best, with the disastrous result that many young men drift into crime. Granny's son was arrested for armed robbery, but got off lightly with a prison sentence. A robber friend was burnt alive in the township, surrounded by a baying mob.

Was there any respite, any pleasures to be had for these women? Absolutely not. Each character swings dizzily from one catastrophe to another until the narrative swirls in a hellish Goyaesque vortex.

Although the book was supposedly dictated by Mathabane's family, the style in which it has been written often slides into sociological jargon: possibly Mathabane has been living in America for too long — who knows? — but the inauthentic Americanese prevents personalities from shining through, leaving the reader strangely unmoved.



Mathabane: oral history

Furthermore, the device of devoting each short chapter to a different family member in rotation was thoroughly confusing. I found myself wondering what Granny was doing dancing with dashing young men in the local shebeen, only to realise that I was reading a chapter on Sister.

Zenga Longmore wrote the "New Life" column in *The Spectator* during the 1980s.

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Ben Macintyre on the irresistible tale of a dynasty that produced two of America's greatest presidents and a legacy of backbiting

A house divided against itself

THE ROOSEVELTS
An American Saga
By Peter Collier
with David Horowitz
André Deutsch, £20



Roosevelt triptych: from left to right Theodore (1910), Eleanor (1951) and Franklin Delano (1936)

Before the Kennedy family cornered the market in political glamour, scandal and dynastic tragedy, America had the Roosevelts. The descendants of Claes Marienszen van Rosenvelt, a Dutch immigrant who arrived in New York in the mid-17th century, produced two great presidents as well as a host of lesser scions whose behaviour (and misbehaviour) intrigued contemporaries to the point of obsession.

But while the Kennedys have always projected an image of tribal solidarity, the Roosevelts were bitterly and publicly divided, most significantly between the branch at Oyster Bay, Long Island, of whom Theodore Roosevelt was the founding spirit, and those of Hyde Park by the Hudson River, the gentleman-farmer wing of the family which produced Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

The long-running feud between the families of TR and FDR forms the central theme of Peter Collier's *The Roosevelts*, a multi-generational biography written with the help of David Horowitz in the same journalistic vein as Collier's earlier treatments of the Kennedys, the Fordes, the Fondas, Unashamedly gossip in style, the book sheds little new light on either of the Presidents Roosevelt; but as a study in the destructive effect of family ambition, the ambiguous psychological legacy of powerful men, and a portrait of a great house divided, it is irresistible, rollicking stuff.

Sara Delano Roosevelt, FDR's dominating mother, feigned bafflement when asked why the two branches of the Roosevelt family ended up at loggerheads. "I can't imagine, unless it's because we're better looking," she sniffed. But the origin of the discord lay, of course, with Theodore Roosevelt himself: that "wonderful little machine" in Henry James's words, whose vaulting ambition, political energy and pressure-cooker personality set in train dynastic expectations to which his own offspring were unequal, but which were finally realised by his distant cousin.

Theodore Roosevelt's six children had little time for Franklin, a somewhat effete and precious youth whom they dismissed as the "Feather Duster" and "a good little mother's boy". But TR encouraged his thriving young relative, and in turn FDR modelled his early life on the man he referred to as "my noble kinsman". When FDR married

Eleanor Roosevelt in 1905, her uncle, the president, gave the bride away, but the established family pecking order was still in evidence. At the wedding reception afterwards, Collier records, "the bride and groom were left standing almost alone", as the guests clustered around TR and his progeny.

If the younger members of America's first family thought little of cousin Franklin, they thought still less of the gawky Eleanor, Alice Longworth, TR's eldest daughter and one of the rudest women ever to pass a Washington bar, cruelly mim-

icked Eleanor's buck-toothed looks and painful voice as a party piece. Years later, infuriated by her jibes, FDR banned Alice from the White House, to her evident satisfaction. "They took it all seriously. They took the meanness in the spirit which it was meant."

While TR lived, rivalry between the two branches was held in check, but after his death in 1919 Ted Jr. was, he believed, destined to take on the Roosevelt mantle; but while he had all his father's guts he had little of his vision. Young Ted's political aspirations

ended in a series of disappointments while, to the venomous dismay of the Oyster Bay Roosevelts, the career of FDR blossomed.

With FDR's election as President, the family dissension reached a peak. Some commentators even claimed the two branches now pronounced their name differently to accentuate the difference between them—the Oyster Bay clan preferring ROSEvelt, the Hyde Park family REWSevelt. In fact, both branches used the same pronunciation (ROSevelt), but the inference was accurate enough.

Theodore Roosevelt's children could only fume at the ascent of the "Feather Duster". While the President manoeuvred to bring America into the war, for example, Ted Jr. was working equally hard for the isolationist cause, believing his cousin's stance was "partly a means of bolstering himself and partly because of megalomania". Alice Longworth was typically scathing: "I'd rather vote for Hitler."

FDR did not, apparently, take the abuse lying down. When Ted Jr. went to war, no word of his conspicuous heroism reached the American public, for which Collier cites a "mysterious directive issued by the British, apparently in response to requests from US intelligence, that his name and that of his son Quentin were to be censored out of press reports."

Ted Jr. died of a heart attack just weeks after becoming the oldest soldier to take part in the Normandy invasion. As A.J. Liebling wrote, while TR had been "a dilettante soldier and a first-class politician, his son was a dilettante politician and a first-class soldier". Kermit, TR's second son, committed suicide in 1943, a business failure and a hopeless drunk, while his younger brother Archie ended up an embittered and extreme right-winger. Alice lived on until 1980, her tongue still one

of the most feared weapons in Washington. "If you don't have anything nice to say about anybody," read the legend on her hand-stitched cushion, "come and sit by me."

But Alice could take spiteful pleasure in the fate of FDR's children who, like her own siblings, failed to find either the success or happiness promised by birth. If the two branches of the family had little in common politically, temperamentally or personally, they still shared one trait: the suffocating weight of a famous name, and the inability to live up to it.

FDR's five children had 19 marriages between them, a tally they grimly referred to as "the body count". The scandals multiplied, along with the repeated, usually failed bids for political recognition. Collier chronicles the decline of the Roosevelt line with case but little compassion, and the final chapters make dismal reading.

In 1989, the two branches of the family staged a formal reunion at which the Roosevelt men exchanged hugs and back-slaps in a forced display of grisly bonhomie. Both TR and FDR would have been sickened by the spectacle, one suspects, as the most poignant proof that the Roosevelts, once the focus of an enthralled nation, no longer mattered.

Ben Macintyre is New York correspondent for The Times.

Sweet smell of gossip

Nigella Lawson

WALTER WINCHELL
Gossip, Power and the
Culture of Celebrity
By Neal Gabler
Picador, £20

Hemingway called him "the greatest newspaperman that ever lived"; in his time he was one of the most famous people in America. Now, 23 years after his death, Walter Winchell is all but forgotten, and for those who do remember him he serves as a byword for all that is worst about tabloid journalism he could be credited with inventing.

"Winchell's primary objective is to explain the 20th century to his millions of readers," pronounced a contemporary of his. "The fact is, however, that historians will be unable to explain the 20th century without understanding Winchell." Indeed, the racy belligerence of Rush Limbaugh, the intimate proings of Oprah Winfrey, and the O.J. Simpson trial in its current, flickering manifestation on millions of TV screens in America, are all part of the Winchell legacy.

Born in 1887 to a family of poor Jewish immigrants in Manhattan, Walter's mother, Jennie, was a beautiful, strong-willed and intolerant woman, who was little prepared to put up with her husband Jacob, a charming, affable but feckless man with pretensions he could never afford. Styling himself Jack de Winchell, he swaggered around own in spats, brandishing cane. He called his first son Walter and his second Algernon. ("Walter I like," said Jennie; but what's with this Algernon?). Walter thus inherited a profound sense that he was born for greater things than his miserable background allowed. He was resentful and ambitious, and desperate to stop being a nobody.

His first attempt to be someone was in Vaudeville. But although he was handsome enough, and did fairly well as a hoofer, he realised that his talents lay elsewhere. In 1914 a friend and reporter on the *Chicago Herald-Examiner* had asked Walter for his help on a story and Walter had helpfully started submitting items for *Billboard*, then a Vaudeville rag. When on tour he used to type out gossip about members of the company on bits of paper



Burt Lancaster (right) as J.J. Hunsecker (based on Winchell) with Tony Curtis in *The Sweet Smell of Success* (1957)

which he pinned up backstage under the title "Daily News-sense".

He began to notice that by writing gossip he himself became gossiped about, and he soon shook off his amateur status. From *Vaudeville News*, where he wrote a column about Broadway (which he, no less than his friend Damon Runyan, created for his readers), he joined, in the mid-1920s, the newly-launched *Graphic*, a scurrilous rag with no interest in purveying news or respect for accuracy, and proud of it. From there Winchell went to the *Mirror*.

His columns were racy, disrespectful of the boundaries hitherto maintained between what was public and private, and seductively readable. Later they were translated into radio shows, broadcast throughout America. At his height, in the late 1930s and early 40s, Gabler reckons that 50 million Americans — a third of the population — either listened to his radio show or read his daily columns. In 1946 he made just under \$500,000. With success

his resentment did not diminish, if anything it grew: he seemed to seek out vendettas, was cool to his friends, vicious to his enemies and worse to his children.

The *New York Times Book Review* recently identified Winchell as "the man who turned gossip into news". It is, though, the other way round: by turning news into gossip he broadened his appeal and at the same time created the tabloid society. The gossip column was not quite Winchell's invention, as Gabler declares, but it is true that in his columns the antics of these discussed were for the edification, or otherwise, of outsiders rather than insiders: he opened the doors of the salon or, in his case, The Stork Club. The way to become famous fast, Winchell advised, "is to throw a brick at someone who is famous". Journalists ever since have heeded, if unwittingly, his advice.

He realised, of course, the power this conferred on him and the ramifications it would

have for society — which, in a typical Winchellism, he named "public-city". "Social position," he remarked, "is now more a matter of press than prestige." And so it remains.

But it was with FDR that Winchell really became an institution. Roosevelt realised that he needed a conduit to the people, and Winchell was it. Thus he became politicised. Honoured to have been picked out by Roosevelt, he served him with besotted loyalty. He trumpeted the New Deal and attacked anyone who was less than a true believer.

But although much was made at the time of Winchell's foolish vanity, his motivation was sincere and it was fierce: earlier than perhaps most of his contemporaries, he realised the danger of Hitler and warned America of them. He had a cause and espousing it made him feel important.

When he was on the downward slide, losing popularity and cracking up, he tried to regain the esteem in which he had once been able to hold himself by attacking himself

to another cause: unfortunately, especially for someone who liked to think of himself as a liberal, it was McCarthyism. And so began his decline. By the end he was having to take out an ad in *Variety*, begging for someone to take his column.

Neal Gabler is a fearfully conscientious biographer. His is a big subject and a big book. The latter serves the former well, in all except one respect: it lacks the bounce and bristling liveliness of its subject. Winchell's fame rested not just on what he wrote but on how he wrote it: a glamorous woman might be a "horridful goddess", a couple expecting a baby was said to be "infanticipating", a much-hated journalistic rival was a "pre-sstitute". Gabler's text, commendable and fascinating as it is, never quite conveys the buzz. Students of the history of journalism will be thankful for his *Walter Winchell*; others might be more grateful for advice to turn to Michael Herr's reeling 158-page novel and work of genius of the same name.

But it is no accident that the book begins with a Camus quote from *The Stranger*. Its title story sees Anna Akhmatova's quest for someone who would die for love against another quest: this time for a gold ring and a Lincoln Continental. The best of these stories ask the hardest questions, the ones about meaning and reality, which could be

Prose elegies for secret tragedies

DOUGLAS DUNN, most celebrated for his *Elegies*, a moving series of poems written in memory of his dead wife, brings a similarly throaty note to this, his second collection of short stories. Each tale seems to concentrate less on the intimacy of the relationship it describes than on its fragility. Words weave themselves around a sense of absence, a lack of communication which laments the distances between people.

In the opening tale, "Orr Mount", two blind children reach for each other through the music of the piano across the gulf of darkness which separates them from the rest of the world. In "Native Heath" a lawyer's son momentarily touches a returned outcast across the abyss of his vagrancy and exile.

Yet to relay the narratives of these tales is to miss their point. Dunn is not concerned

with the dramas of high romance. Set in his native Scotland, his tales tell of backwaters where "experience and news rarely coincide". His characters inhabit their worlds of faded gentility and small-town society like hermit crabs in their shells.

With a poet's sensitivity, Dunn needles at the vulnerable creature within. In "Postponing the Bungalow", a group of daytrippers touring the town in a horse and carriage driven by two ageing friends, remain oblivious to new love pushing its tender shoots through old familiarity. They are too preoccupied looking for another, more obvious, type of romantic ruin. Dunn is alert to what any less finely attuned vision would miss, and demands the same from his readers.

Tiny details are significant. In "Needlework" it is the undernourished Mr Boyd Porteous standing in his dressing gown on the damp lawn which conveys the sad sterility of his marriage. "Nancy, Bruce and Percy" ends with Bruce sounding his car horn in the drive — the only sign that he has freed himself from the tyranny of his frustrated sister, Nancy.

Reading inattentively it is easy to let the point of these stories slip past you. Told in a quiet, unheroic prose, with a vigorous Scots dialect used only for direct speech, the essence of these tales lies in their evocations of mood and gently ironic tone. In "Hazard of the House", a story in which a holidaying couple are plagued by a mouse, it is the tone in which the husband says something as simple as "there is only one mouse, Hilda", which to the narrator's attentive ear "sums up their whole relationship".

What is unsaid becomes as important as what is said. Dunn brings his characters to the brink of emotions, but pauses on the edge which threatens their exposure. He is less interested in clearly definable states than those strangely unvoicable moments of mixed feeling: "embarrassed sorrow", "earnest gaiety", "sober optimism".

But though the tales collected here expose the tensions of character beneath surface propriety, they lack something of the lyrical spontaneity of Dunn's verse. The narrative dilutes the energy and the reader is unsure what Dunn has gained by turning from poetry to prose.

Even in uniform Mr Waugh's characters are easily recognisable as the bright if bitter young things of the pre-war world, whose antics he delighted in portraying. As a central character Guy Crouchback is not altogether satisfactory. He is bruised by life, and in particular by the failure of his marriage to Virginia, yet one cannot but feel that it is largely his own fault. Throughout he remains shut in a shell of solitude that excludes sympathy, quick to torment himself on the suspicion of a pretext, and behaving towards Virginia when their paths once again cross with a gawkiness of conduct and a grossness of sentiment that incline one to imagine that she probably had ample reason to leave him.

Most of Mr Waugh's description and his dialogue is extremely funny as well as apt, and he has the shrewdness to discern below surface muddle and mismanagement much that is honourable and valiant. It is only a pity that he should have chosen to turn his particular attention to a character so far out of touch with his fellow men.

(The Times, September 13, 1952)

Superb author events in March

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Top of the food chain of satire

Erica Wagner

WITHOUT A HERO
By T. Coraghessan Boyle
Granta, £9.99 pbk original

have lately been troubling us in the complacent West, we who are "filthy with things". Boyle is far too clever for that. Bernard Puff runs an African game ranch where you can shoot a real elephant — if you have \$18,000 to spare, that is. Only his ranch is in Bakersfield, California, and the Great White Hunters who visit are real estate agents

from Encino. Alena Jorgensen is a vegetarian activist, a beautiful turkey-farm saboteur who steals her lover away from his corned-beef sandwiches and introduces him to a new kind of violence. Adrian knows the frogs are disappearing from the planet and feels the pulse of doom.

But what makes this collection so successful is that it does not just confront issues: it tells stories, the old-fashioned kind that keep you turning the pages. It is one thing to be thought-provoking, but another thing entirely to make a reader laugh aloud, and these tales manage to do both.

Boyle has the ruthless eye of a satirist, most keenly displayed in "Top of the Food Chain", an unapologetic lecture on the benefits of DDT, and a faultless ear that lets him jump back and forth easily between characters in the limited space of a short story, a trick not often successfully accomplished.

In "Acts of God" Willis Blythe worries that his wife's outrage "will shift to him with the sudden killing swiftness of an avalanche". In "Beat" Boyle both captures and parodies the jiving rhythms of Beatdom: "Afterward we left our Beat plates where we

dropped them and rushed into the living room to spin some sides and pound on the bongos while Allen danced a dishevelled dance and blew into the wooden flute and Bill looked into the long tunnel of himself."

But it is no accident that the book begins with a Camus quote from *The Stranger*. Its title story sees Anna Akhmatova's quest for someone who would die for love against another quest: this time for a gold ring and a Lincoln Continental. The best of these stories ask the hardest questions, the ones about meaning and reality, which could be



Boyle: has a ruthless eye

described as existential. This is Boyle's greatest strength: he is not afraid to allow the readers to do some thinking for themselves.

Scotland turn to Leighton to solve goalkeeping crisis

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

JIM LEIGHTON may have thought, reasonably, that, at the age of 36, his international career was over, but yesterday the veteran goalkeeper, best known for his spells with Aberdeen and Manchester United, was given the chance to revive it. With injuries ruling out Andy Goram and Bryan Gunn, the preferred choice of Craig Brown, the Scotland coach, Leighton has been recalled to the Scottish squad for the European championship qualifier with Russia in Moscow on March 29 and been told to be ready to play.

Scotland's need for Leighton has scarcely been greater. Robbed of Goram's services by a calf injury that may force the Rangers player to undergo surgery and with Gunn, of Norwich City, out for the rest of the season, Brown was desperate for experienced goalkeeping cover. He had watched two possible, but untested, candidates — Nicky Walker, of Partick Thistle, and Stephen Woods, of Motherwell — in Tuesday's 3-0 B international win over Northern Ireland at Easter Road, but learnt later that Walker had picked up a calf injury of his own. After a recommendation from Alex Miller, the Hibernian manager and Brown's assistant at international level, he turned to Leighton.

"The goalkeeping situation is a problem," Brown said yesterday. "It looks like Leighton will play against the Russians. Thankfully, Jim's in great form right now, but his fitness will be a real concern to me over the next month."

"We are still hoping Andy Goram might be back after his operation by the Russia game, because normally he is a quick healer, but, if not, we are looking at Walker, Woods and Ally Maxwell, of Rangers, as back-up to Leighton. I'll even be watching Gordon Marshall, of Celtic, since he was back in their side at the weekend."

Leighton won the most recent of his 61 caps at the end of last season in Holland, but he has been in superb form for Hibernian of late and another comeback would underline his return to the top level five years after being written off by United. Dropped for the 1990 FA Cup Final replay against Crystal Palace — Les Sealey was chosen instead — Leighton

was relegated to playing reserve football at Old Trafford, with no hope of a first-team recall, before returning to Scotland with Dundee. Eighteen months ago, Miller signed Leighton for Hibernian and his prospects began to look up once again.

Darren Jackson, Leighton's team-mate at Hibernian, is the best bet to step up from the B game to meet the Russians. Jackson scored a stunning second goal in Scotland's victory, with Steven Tweed and Stephen Wright also on target.

"One or two players did their claims no harm," Brown said. "Another use for a B game is that you can eliminate one or two — although I won't name names — but people like Paul Lambert, Rob McKinnon and definitely Jackson are in my thoughts."

John Robertson, of Heart of Midlothian, who was the man of the match in the 4-2 Tennes Scottish Cup win over Rangers on Monday night, has not been ruled out by a senior recall, although Duncan Ferguson, of Everton, John McGinlay, of Bolton Wanderers, and John Spencer, of Chelsea, are ahead of him in the queue. Scotland have a two-match trip to Japan in May prior to the final European championship qualifier of the season, in the Faeroe Islands on June 7.



Leighton has been given the chance to revive his international career in Russia

Mahaney loses unbeaten record

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL
IN SAN DIEGO

THE closest race of the America's Cup yachting trials saw Dennis Conner's *Stars & Stripes* secure a thrilling victory over *Young America*, skippered by Kevin Mahaney, here late on Tuesday.

The yachts were never more than four boat lengths apart throughout the race, and Conner won by the slender margin of three seconds. It was the first time in 20 races during the series that the winning margin was less than 20 seconds.

The result ended Mahaney's undefeated run in the third round of the defender trials and brought *Stars & Stripes* to within four points of them in the overall standings.

Last night, Marc Pajot's *France 3* team was facing a desperate battle against the Japanese entry, *Nippon 94*, trying to regain some credibility after its trial yacht capsize on Monday. *France 3* needed a victory to stand any chance of qualifying for the semi-finals.

With the Peter Blake-led *Team New Zealand* still undefeated, and *oneAustralia* tied with Chris Dickson's *Tag Heuer Challenge* for second place, the Japanese, who have yet to unveil their new boat, remain the weakest among the top four crews.

A Japanese victory last night would give them a three-boat lead over the French, and a much stronger hold on a place in the semi-finals. Victory for the French would not only bolster confidence, which has ebbed to the point where Pajot's future as skipper is being questioned, but also close the gap between the teams to less than a win before the final round of trials next month.

Another showdown, this time between *Team New Zealand* and Dickson's rival *Tag Heuer*, ended almost before it began on Tuesday when one of *Tag's* primary winches failed during the first tack of the race. Later, Dickson's trailing crew was handicapped further when David Brooke was hit by the spinnaker pole and spent the rest of the race nursing a deep cut in his head, which was bandaged with duct tape.

RESULTS: America's Cup trials (San Diego) 1. *Stars & Stripes* (Dennis Conner) 2. *Young America* (Kevin Mahaney) 3. *oneAustralia* (Chris Dickson) 4. *Tag Heuer Challenge* (Chris Dickson) 5. *France 3* (Marc Pajot) 6. *Nippon 94* (Takashi Kitayama) 7. *Team New Zealand* (Peter Blake) 8. *oneAustralia* (Chris Dickson) 9. *Tag Heuer Challenge* (Chris Dickson) 10. *France 3* (Marc Pajot) 11. *Nippon 94* (Takashi Kitayama) 12. *Team New Zealand* (Peter Blake) 13. *oneAustralia* (Chris Dickson) 14. *Tag Heuer Challenge* (Chris Dickson) 15. *France 3* (Marc Pajot) 16. *Nippon 94* (Takashi Kitayama) 17. *Team New Zealand* (Peter Blake) 18. *oneAustralia* (Chris Dickson) 19. *Tag Heuer Challenge* (Chris Dickson) 20. *France 3* (Marc Pajot) 21. *Nippon 94* (Takashi Kitayama) 22. *Team New Zealand* (Peter Blake) 23. *oneAustralia* (Chris Dickson) 24. *Tag Heuer Challenge* (Chris Dickson) 25. *France 3* (Marc Pajot) 26. *Nippon 94* (Takashi Kitayama) 27. *Team New Zealand* (Peter Blake) 28. 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London University trial eights share Tideway honours



"Guy", above, and "Salmon", the London University trial eights, produced a typically close-fought confrontation on the Tideway yesterday (Mike Rosewell writes). The crews raced two pieces, one from Isleworth to Kew and a second from the university boathouse to Barnes Bridge. They switched stations for each race and honours were duly shared, with a three-quarter-length victory to each crew. Members of the university first and second eights were evenly divided between the boats and, with six full and several junior internationals involved, the performances were impressive in

difficult conditions. The first contest was won by Guy, coxed by Mike Thomsett and stroked by Rupert Obholzer, a world championship bronze medal-winner, with support from Luke Nolan and Graham Smith, who also rowed at Indianapolis. On Middlesex, Obholzer's higher initial rate gave his crew a slight lead and Thomsett was then able to take the fastest water. Another increase in the rate after two minutes effectively closed the door on Salmon. But a switch of stations for the second contest produced a reversed result, as Salmon's stern pair of Tim Foster, another world championship bronze

medal-winner, and Stuart Whitelaw went out for revenge. This time Tish Kester steered her crew into an early lead and Salmon shot Chiswick Bridge with a half-length advantage. The university's new coach, Paul McGann, from Australia, is taking up where his predecessors at London left off. The all-British crews appear destined to remain in the shadow of the multi-national Oxford and Cambridge University Boat Race crews, to be named next week, but a proposed race against Harvard ahead of the Henley regatta should ensure that London are, again, a force with which to be reckoned.

Illingworth's men facing challenge

BY SIMON WILDE

MICHAEL ATHERTON'S call for England cricket selectors "more in touch with the dynamics of the modern game" has received a swift and encouraging response. When nominations closed yesterday for the two available places on the selection panel, it transpired that two candidates had been put forward to oppose the re-election of Brian Bolus, 61, and Fred Titmus, 62, and one of them was much nearer in age to the England captain.

In many respects David Graveney, 42, could not be better suited to fit Atherton's needs. Certainly, few people better understand the dynamics of the modern game. Graveney retired, after a long and distinguished career with Gloucestershire, Somerset and Durham, only last year and since then has remained uniquely informed with the ways of the English professional circuit as general-secretary of the Cricketers' Association (CA). Against that, he, like Jack Simmons, 53, the other nominee, never played Test cricket.

The decision now rests with the constituent members of the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB) — the 18 first-class counties — the Minor Counties association and MCC, whose votes will be counted and declared on March 8 — and the chairman of the committee, Raymond Illingworth, whose two preferences, bizarrely, will be indicated to the members before they vote. Illingworth is known to be happy with the way Bolus and Titmus have performed but in the wake of another lost Ashes series the county clubs may be in no



Graveney: conscientious



Simmons: keeps in touch

the modern game; someone who is sympathetic to the captain's view and who will support him in some of his opinions.

Graveney, who, ironically, left Gloucestershire in unhappy circumstances in 1988 after being dismissed as captain, was put forward by the club last year but he accepts that the club was still playing counted against him. "Somebody who plays can't really do the job," Graveney said yesterday. "But for their commitments as players and captains the likes of Kim Barnett, Mike Gatting, Graham Gooch and Mark Nicholas might all have been elected before now."

Since retiring as a player in 1989 at the age of 48, Simmons has maintained close links with the game through various business ventures which he might still be able to pursue as a selector.

He definitely belongs, though, to the older rather than the younger generation. Shortly before retiring, he admitted that there was a generation gap. "I find myself looking for the umpires for a chat," he said. "They're the same age group as me and we have the same attitudes. A lot of the younger players don't even watch the cricket now. They walk around with those Sony Walkmans on their heads, listening to music."

Knight's century prelude to victory

NICK KNIGHT scored his second one-day century in six days to help England A, led by Mark Ramprakash, beat Bangladesh by 20 runs in a limited-overs international in Dhaka yesterday, a victory that gave the touring side the series by a 2-0 margin.

Bangladesh made a bold attempt to overhaul England's 235 for eight but lost impetus after an opening partnership of 79 between Athar Ali and Javed Belim. Richard Stamp being heavily involved as three wickets fell in six balls.

Although Aminul Islam and Mohammad Rafiq added 82 frantic runs in 11 overs for the seventh wicket, Bangladesh were all out in the 49th over.

Knight, whose unbeaten 114 in Hyderabad helped to clinch the one-day series against India A, again won the man-of-the-match award. He hit three huge sixes in his 117, made from 133 balls, before he was seventh out in the final over. He and David Hemp, who hit 52 from 79 balls, added 99 for the third wicket.

Glen Chapple yanked Belim for 36 to break the Bangladesh opening partnership and Zakaria Iftikhar was caught off Paul Weekes before Stamp sent back Minhazul Abedin. He then deceived the Bangladesh captain, Akram Khan, who chipped a catch to Weekes at mid-wicket, before running out Ali for 46 to leave Bangladesh at 103 for five, only for the seventh-wicket pair to revive the hopes of a crowd of 10,000.

Scoreboard, page 40

Lyle searches for spark of magic

FROM MEL WEBB IN VALENCIA

SANDY LYLE, the great player who somehow lost his way, today emerges from a 14-week self-imposed estrangement from golf with the resolve to restore "a little bit of magic" to a once-glittering career that has sunk into a sad state of suspended animation in the past two years.

Lyle, who plays in the Open Mediterranean that starts at Escorpion today, spoke yesterday of his determination to resuscitate the game that won him the Open Championship and the Masters in the Eighties. "It seems an uphill climb to get back into the limelight, but I'm going to give it my best shot," he said. "It's too early to talk about targets; my initial aim is just to enjoy the game again and try to get a few decent finishes."

He has an enormous task ahead of him. He finished 67th and 61st in the European money list in the past two years, the worst seasons of a 17-year career that once took him to the pinnacle of the world game. He has slipped to 89th in the world rankings and is toiling in 34th place in the Ryder Cup points list. If he is to play Ryder Cup golf again, and he admits he would like to, he needs to earn some serious money in short order.

The last tournament in which he played was the Mexican Open in early November, and although he has not set foot on a golf course since then, winter at his new home in Scotland has not found him idle.

Jolande, his wife, presented him with Quintin Tjerd, their first son, five weeks ago, and the imminent birth kept him at home, he said, a little longer than he might otherwise have done. Early-season tournaments in the United States

would have been the alternative, but he is still happy enough with the work he has been able to put in without moving more than a few yards from his back door.

Lyle has made himself a driving range out of a slice of the 140 acres of land that surround his home in Dolphington, which sits in the Scottish borders, right on the cusp of England. If he really has his one out of the screws, he can tee the ball up in Scotland and watch it disappear into Sassenach country.

He has been hitting some balls and swinging a heavy-headed metal driver — "it's about four or five times the weight of a normal club and has helped to take some of the tightness out of my muscles and has forced me to swing slower," he said — and is so far agreeably surprised with the results.

His first target is the Masters, which he won, unforgettably, in 1988, and after playing here and appearing also in the Andalucian Open next week, he will then cross the Atlantic to play at Bay Hill, followed by the Tournament Players' Championship and probably New Orleans before moving on to Augusta.

After listening to hundreds of well-meaning advisers to disastrous effect in his darkest days, he is doing things his way again, but while in the United States he will spend a few days with Jimmy Ballard, an elder statesman among coaches.

What Lyle is seeking from Ballard is that elusive "bit of magic". In Ryder Cup year, the whole of European golf will fall on the veteran American's neck in gratitude if he rediscovered it in the swing of Sandy Lyle.

Old-timers on to a winner

Soundtrack: Old Newshounds. Radio 4, 7.20pm.

There cannot be all that many newspapers operating on so tight a budget that are produced by unpaid OAPs with no previous experience. The *Hackney Pensioners' Press* takes everything in its stride, including poor printing, cash shortage and a 12-shortfall in poems intended for publication. Thrice yearly, the 12-pager is delivered free to the east London doorsteps of this racially mixed community. Issue number 32 carries pictures of a fancy hat contest and a front-page lead about a pensioners' protest at Buckingham Palace. As was once said famously of another newspaper: all human life is there.

Rocco Don't Eat Greens. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Arnold Wiseman, the split-personality hero of Nick Pullen's dark-grey comedy, confesses to us that he is both marmoset and murderer. He is, in fact, more mammoth than monkey and goes to a party in an elephant's skin to prove the point. As to whether he is, but the mad climax of Pullen's absurdly inventive play says he is, but the mad laughter that we hear over the closing titles raises doubts on the question. Wiseman has a Chandeleague after ego who speaks like Bogart. I can see why Pullen invested him, but I found him an irritating superman. Bill Wallis plays Wiseman and Christian Rodska is his dad: Philip Marlowe. Peter Daville

RADIO 1

PM Stereo, 4.00pm Bruno Brookes 6.30
Steve Wright 8.00 Kevin Greening 12.00
Lisa L'Amour, including at 12.30
12.45pm Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell
4.00 Mark Goodier, and at 8.30
5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session
8.00 Soundbite 10.00 Stuart Maconie
12.00-4.00am Claire Sturgess

RADIO 2

PM Stereo, 6.00am Sarah Kennedy
6.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Willie
to Wogan 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30
Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm
Gina Harrison, including at 3.00 Three
after Three 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.00 North
Kether 7.00 The Comedians: Joyce
Gerrard 7.30 David Allan 8.00 Paul
Jones 10.00 British Country 10.30 The
Jamaica 12.00am Steve Madden 8.00
New Line

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The
Breakfast Programme, including at 6.55
and 7.55 Racing Preview 8.30 The
Magazine, including at 9.40 Film Re-
view 10.30 Eurosport 11.00 Golf
Reaction 12.00 Midday with Mair,
including at 12.30pm Liz Barclay with
Moneycheck 2.00 Russia on Five,
including at 3.15 Prime Minister's
Question Time 4.00 John Inverdale
Nationwide 7.00 News Extra, including
at 7.20pm 7.30 Women on Top 8.00
Africa South on the Floor: Bangor
University 9.05 Sportsman 9.05
News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, including
at 11.45 The Financial World 12.00
12.05am Night Moves 2.00 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Maurice Dea and Carol McGiffin
10.00 Scott Chelton 1.00pm Anna
Ratburn 3.00 Tommy Boyd 7.00
Samantha Marsh and Sean Boyer 10.00
Caesar the Gossip 1.00am Wild At Kelly

RADIO 3

6.30am Open University:
Literature: Sweeney Agonistes
6.55 Weather
7.00 On Air: With Catherine Young
Claremont (Symphony in B flat,
Op 18 No 1) by Frédéric
Williams (Festival Te Deum);
Verdi (Ballet Music, Macbeth);
Ad II; Handel (Overture:
Alcina); Beethoven (Concerto
for Piano Soloist No 3 in
B minor, Op 58)
8.00 Composers of the Week:
The Court of Dresden.
Presented by Jill Anderson.
Bach (Gloria, Mass in B
minor); W.F. Bach (Fugue in
C minor); Johann Heinrich
(Lamentatio in Antonio Lotti
(Crucifixus a 8); Johann
Hesse (Il rimorso opprimo il
seno, La Conversione de
San' Agostino); Jan Zelenka
(Magicalist in D)
10.00 Musical Encounters: With
Andrew Lyle, 10.00 Artist of
the Week: Michael Collins,
clarinet, Bernstein (Prelude,
Fugue and Rite); 10.05
Telemann (Ballet Suite de
Quintet); Arnold (Symphony
No 2); Purcell (The Cornish
History of Don Quixote,
excerpts); Rawsthorne
(Quintet for piano and wind);
Haydn (Symphony No 92 in
G, Oxford)
12.00 Ensemble: The first of two
programmes of music by
Haydn (i)
1.00pm Brass Roots: Music
inspired by brass bands were
playing in the late 1800s
including Beethoven, and
Gladstone (Overture: Egmont);
Rossini, an Owen (A selection
of Rossini's works); Schubert
(Overture in F minor; Prelude,
Minuet and Allegro)

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping Forecast 6.00
News Briefing; Weather 6.10
Farming Today 6.25 Prayer
for the Day 6.30 Today
7.00, 7.20, 8.00, 8.30 News
7.25, 8.25 Sport 7.45
Thought for the Day 8.40
Yesterday in Parliament 8.58
Weather
9.00 News 9.05 Face the Facts:
With John Waite (i)
9.30 Never the Same Again:
Jenni Hill talks to a couple
who adopted a two-year-old
boy. Last in the series
10.00-10.30 News: After Eden
(FM only); Drama series by
Alison Leonard about a
woman priest. With Christine
Pritchard (1/6)
10.00 Daily Service (LW only)
10.15 Children's Radio 4:
Marrying Off Mum (LW
only), by Janice Marriot
10.30 Woman's Hour: Introduced
by Jenni Murray
11.30 From Our Own
Correspondent
12.00 News: You and Yours: With
Tessa Ross (1/6)
12.25pm Looking Forward to the
Past: Paul Beasant MP hosts a
lighthearted discussion on
History 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick
Clarke
1.40 The Archers (i) 1.55
Shipping Forecast
2.00 News: Rocco Don't Eat
Greens: See Choice
3.00 The Afternoon Shift: With
Daire Brennan
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope:
Presented by Robert Dawson
Scott from the stage of The
Point, Cardiff's new theatre
4.45 Short Story: Translated for
Max Jericho. Bill Paterson
reads Robert Brack's story

RADIO 1: FM 97.6-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-
92.4, RADIO 4: 1984-1515m, FM 2.4-94.6, LW 198, RADIO 5:
97.3, CAPITAL: 1548-1530m, LONDON: 1526-1521m, FM
SERVICES: MW 648-1483m, CLASSIC FM: FM 100-102, VIRGIN:
MW 1215, 1242-14, TALK RADIO: MW 1089, 1053-14, Listings
by Peter Dear, Gillian Murray, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson

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WORD-WATCHING
Answers from page 39
AGRIOLOGY
(a) The comparative study of the history and customs of savage or uncivilised peoples, from the Greek *agros* wild or savage. "The new lights thrown on the early stages of society by what may be called agriology."
COLOMBOPHILE
(a) A pigeon-fancier, or as an adjective, pigeon-fancying, or of pertaining to pigeon-fanciers. From the Latin *columbus* a dove or pigeon + the Greek suffix *-phile* a lover of or at any rate an enthusiast for. "No single body covers all aspects of colombophilia in Britain."
FRUG
(a) A modern dance, origin unknown. "The frog, the Watni, the surf, the monkey — strange dances in which the partners do not touch, do not talk."
BREDIE
(a) A stew of meat and vegetables, also *breedi*, Afrikaans from Malay. "Bredie signifies in the Madagascar tongue *Spinage*, the word is brought hither by the slaves, and at present, throughout the whole colony, every sort of vegetable which, like cabbage, spinach, or sorrel, is cut in pieces and dressed with Cayenne pepper, is included under the general term Bredie."
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1... Qg5 wins. e.g. 2 Nc5 2 Rg1 3 Nc1 Nc2 is mate 2... Nd2 3 Kg1 Nh3 mate.

	Depth (cm)	L	U	Conditions	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Kitzbühel	30	125	good	varied	fair	fair	5	22/2
Mayrhofen	10	80	hard	varied	closed	cloud	0	18/2
Oberurgl	65	130	good	varied	good	fair	-3	21/2
Soil	25	65	fair	varied	poor	fine	7	21/2
(Upper slopes still fine, lower pretty rough below 1,200 metres)								
FRANCE								
Courchevel	145	285	good	varied	fair	snow	-1	22/2
Flaine	160	315	good	powder	fair	fog	5	21/2
La Plagne	180	350	good	powder	good	cloud	-2	21/2
Val d'Isère	145	335	good	varied	good	sun	4	22/2
Val Thorens	180	310	good	varied	fair	snow	2	22/2
(Mixed visibility giving icy slopes; light snowfalls)								
SWITZERLAND								
Mürren	105	200	good	heavy	good	fair	3	21/2
Verbier	40	150	good	powder	good	fine	1	22/2
Villars	75	255	good	powder	good	cloud	-3	21/2
(Colours: good skiing; 10cm of fresh snow)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper; art - artificial.

studio links sound what they are scripted and rehearsed. Either that or she's sulking, having worked out that with this format she is actually never going to go anywhere. Having played *The Holiday Programme* ace — Club 18-30 — next week it's holidays with hooligans. Can't wait.

By some scheduling quirk of the ITV Network Centre, Wednesday night now brings us *Wish You Were Here...* (ITV), the programme which makes no attempt to tell you what holidays are really like but looks beautiful instead. Judith Chalmers's location links are not so much scripted as surreal, but then you try joining the Sinai Desert with the 'green and pleasant pastures' of Shropshire. Last night's show also featured my all-time favourite bit of Chalmers's advice: "Desert evenings can be chilly – so make sure you take something warm." Oh.

Matthew
Bond

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Dog days for Quirke and Robson (BBC1, 9.35pm)

2.25 A Country Practice (s) (61656149) 2.5
Gardeners' Diary (9488410)

The guest is Tim Robbins (19726) 1.30 TH

1.30 Neighbours (CeeFax) (s) (82882675)

championships (s). Continues at 4 30 (7670781)

Secret - Eyes Only Disney

(192)

6.00 **The Cosby Show.** American domestic comed
(Teletext) (830)

8.30 Top Gear. Includes a report on the Alfa Romeo 145

The Clam Metal Detector



City speed limit on the National (7-20pm)

Crown Prosecutor

10.35 London Tonight (Teletext) and weather (390439)

10.00 Hearts and Minds. Episode two of a four-part drama set in a Liverpool comprehensive. (Teletext 1000-1001)

former leader of the Liberal Party Sir David Steel; Labour European Affairs spokeswoman Joyce

12.10 The Chemistry of the Invisible (7340434)

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SPORTS

Soccer News: 061134711 7.15 WNF

(8033410) 12.15am FILM A Night to Remember (1958) (R) (01882) 2.30 Show-

The Bridge (1930897) 1.00pm VH-1 to
(6676946) 1.30 Ten of the Best (1102304)

CENTRAL 7.00 Getaways (168) 10
Silence (81156525) 12.95

Generation (42586) 11.00 David Lefkowitz
(869149) 11.45 Littlejohn (571507) 12.30am
Chapman (33144) 1.30 Mike Gail 750001

Round Trip (7087694) 7.00 America
tion (8317965) 8.00 Around the

NICKELODEON

Janam Daala (9138) 7.00 Urdu News
(745878) 7.05 Dhun Dhama (956897) 7.30

Mermaid (9466410) 3.25-3.30 Graceland
News (7124965) 5.10-5.40 A Country
and Weather (3943810)
(604014) 11.30 Prisoner
(958236) 12.25am Snake

Cell Block H (1980) 12.00 The Viking Queen (1967) 7.30

2.30 Video Tropic (7052385) 3.00 7.00am Give Us a Clue (1142547)
doors (1807878) 4.00 Travel Guide: Neighbours (1847515) 8.00 Son

4.30 Zoo Life (7092119) 5.00 5th Daughters (2638439) 8.30 East

7.30	Man Eaters of the Wild (8794568)	5.05	
and	Beyond 2000 (8401782)	7.00	From Monkeys
		5.00am	Wildside

orders to 4-pcs (4528217) 7.30 Fork in the Road (847811) 7.00 WD

021630 B-30 The Grind CNN provides 24-hour news and CNN

the home shopping channel

15 The West This Week (257439) 11.65-

20pm Good Health! (284684) 4.30pm-
Jobfinder (60502)

Chairman acts quickly to calm troubled waters after Graham's departure

Houston takes charge at Arsenal

By ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

ARSENAL moved quietly and sensibly yesterday to still the swirl of managerial speculation that surrounds the club, giving Stewart Houston, who has been the second in command to George Graham for the past five seasons, the manager's job and making it plain that he is the incumbent until the end of this season.

However, the second area of speculation, which is far more by far, remains unresolved. Questions have yet to be answered about the extent of knowledge at Highbury concerning the alleged irregularities of George Graham's management that led to his dismissal on Tuesday.

While Houston was being summoned to the office of the Arsenal chairman, Peter Hill-Wood, yesterday, there was crossfire over the radio between Bob Wilson, a close friend of Graham, and Howard Wilkinson, the manager of Leeds United and the chairman of the League Managers' Association.

Wilson had emotively claimed in the morning that Graham must not be made a scapegoat for alleged financial irregularities in football, that at least seven other managers needed to be brought to account over the allegations of wrongly taking money relating to the transfers of players.

"I think if Bob is saying that," Wilkinson retorted, "he's being a bit irresponsible and a bit premature. We all have to wait for the Premier League report and, until then, all we know is sadly Arsenal have sacked George Graham, the most successful manager in the country at the moment."

The FA Premier League commission of inquiry into alleged financial irregularities in football produces its "statement on the interim report" into the affair today.

Ironically, it had been Wilkinson who mused, at Highbury just before Christmas: "I didn't realise it was that mucky, to be honest," referring to newspaper reports that helped to stimulate the inquiry into Graham.

Yesterday, solicitors for the dismissed Arsenal manager stated that, unlike the club, he had not seen the report that had, apparently, condemned him. The team he built, however, won, on Tuesday night.



At his predecessor's shoulder during happier times at Arsenal, Houston, then the club's assistant manager, has taken over from Graham, left, as the man in charge

its first home match in the FA Carling Premiership since October 23. The method, of course, was Graham's, but the man in charge was Houston.

Houston, as faithful an assistant as they come, had barely 24 hours to sleep on the departure of his boss before being summoned to see Hill-Wood, but speculation about who would be the next Arsenal manager had, by then, reached hysterical proportions. Bookmakers were offering odds on 33 assorted names. They were not listen-

ing to Hill-Wood, for he had already said: "I spoke to Stewart Houston on the phone. I asked him to take charge tonight. I'm sure the players have faith in him and I can think of no better candidate at the moment."

Houston — like Graham, a former Manchester United and Scotland player, although, unlike Graham, a full back rather than a midfield player — was asked to accept the succession, at least until this troubled season is completed. He was told that,

contrary to every report, Arsenal would not look at any other manager until that time and that "though Stewart is an untried manager", the chairman and his board were content to trust him with the team.

There has, of course, been a precedent at Highbury. Bertie Mee, promoted not from assistant manager but from the medical room, where he was the club's physiotherapist, gave Arsenal managerial leadership, discipline, propriety ... and the 1970-71 League

championship and FA Cup double.

If Houston was to look to him for inspiration, he would find mostly practicality. Over 20 years ago, Mee had answered the question about what it takes to be a manager thus: "You've obviously got to know the game and the tactics of the game. You have to handle individuals, be their confidant, be a financial adviser, a PR man, be a go-between of the players and the board. Those are just a few of the things."

An easy job, obviously. The pace of life, the glare of the television spotlights and, all too obviously, the monetary rewards have increased beyond measure since Mee's succession to the Arsenal manager's chair, but Houston, self-evidently with mixed emotions of inheriting the post in unfortunate circumstances, declared himself "happy, delighted, I can't wait to get on with the job".

His style will clearly be less autocratic, less severe than Graham's and that in itself

might liberate Arsenal from the depressing, arguably over-organised manner in which Graham teams, though successful, squeezed the life out of their opponents.

There will be much of Graham in his former assistant, but Houston is astute enough to know that the time of Arsenal's power game is over and that the opportunity to find, if he can, at least one truly inventive midfield creator would endear him to football lovers everywhere, not least to his chairman.

Cup-tie falls foul of late storm

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

A RAINSTORM that swept across London forced the late postponement of three high-profile football matches in the capital last night, including the second leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final between Crystal Palace and Liverpool at Selhurst Park.

Two FA Carling Premiership matches, between Chelsea and Southampton at Stamford Bridge, and West Ham United and Queens Park Rangers at Upton Park, were also called off less than an hour before the scheduled start.

Earlier in the day, the other Coca-Cola Cup semi-final between Bolton Wanderers and Swindon Town also fell foul of the weather, as well as the Premiership match between Newcastle United and Tottenham Hotspur at St James' Park.

Peter Taylor, the manager of the struggling Endsleigh Insurance League first division club, Southend United, has been temporarily relieved of his duties. The former England winger has been told to take a month's holiday before reporting back to the club chairman, Vic Jobson, but it is thought that he will remain at the club in a coaching capacity.

Taylor, who began his playing career at Southend 25 years ago before moving on to Crystal Palace and Tottenham, took over at Roots Hall in succession to Barry Fry after Fry moved to Birmingham City in controversial circumstances 14 months ago. Southend are one place above the relegation zone, having won only one game in their last 12, and they are without a victory in 1995 after losing 2-0 to Reading on Tuesday night.

"After a long meeting with the chairman, it was agreed that perhaps the place needed a change," Taylor said yesterday. "I would like to have seen the job through because I had never been a quitter in my life, but I understand the problems that the chairman faces."

"I am a Southend man through and through. I know I can coach. I know I can manage, and I have not lost confidence to do both."

Bradford offer Watson for sale

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

BRADFORD Northern rugby league club have put Dave Watson, the New Zealand full back, on the transfer list with an asking price of £150,000.

Watson hit the headlines last weekend when he failed to provide a urine sample for a drugs test after the match against Hull. He did not train or keep an appointment to discuss the matter with the club directors last night.

The club said that its decision to place Watson on the transfer list was a result of this lack of communication and had nothing to do with the incident last weekend. But this was the second time in seven days that Watson had been selected for drug-testing.

He was picked by the Sports Council after the Challenge

Cup tie against Leeds and selected again after the Hull match because the council was unhappy with the circumstances of the first test.

Chris Caisley, the club chairman, said last night: "This is unacceptable behaviour from a professional and we decided to put him up for sale. Whether he is considered for selection will be a matter for the coach to decide."

"Because Dave did not make himself available, it has been impossible for us to talk about the events of the weekend. His listing is nothing to do with what happened last weekend."

Watson joined Bradford Northern from Halifax in August 1992. His career at Thrum Hall had ended amid some controversy when he was suspended for three

months after testing positive for cannabis use.

David Myers, the other Northern player who failed to produce a urine sample, did have talks with the club directors after being cited by the Rugby League for running into a referee deliberately and kicking a Leeds player. No decision about disciplinary action has been announced.

Caisley said: "We spoke to David Myers about his problems but we cannot comment because the issue is now *sub judice*."

Northern are also still considering the future of Peter Fox, the coach, who has been accused of making offensive gestures at supporters.

Gary Hetherington, the Great Britain Under-21 coach, has retained ten of the team that was beaten by Australia

Under-21 at Gateshead in November for the John Smith's international against France in Carcassonne on Saturday, March 4. Francis Cummins, Richard Goddard, Nigel Wright and Mark Hilton all also played for England at full international level against France last week.

Simon Baldwin, of Halifax, who has already been capped twice at full international level, is now in line for his under-21 debut. He is one of six new faces in the squad together with Cochrane, Flynn, Jovitt, Leatham and Rowley.

ENGLAND SQUAD: F Cummins (Leeds), A Flynn (Wakefield), R Goddard (Castleford), K Hammond (Leeds), M Hewitt (Hull), G Holroyd (Leeds), S Prescott (St Helens), S Raynolds (Huddersfield), C Smith (Castleford), N Wright (Wakefield), S Baldwin (Halifax), G Cochrane (Keighley), A Hay (Castleford), M Hilton (Warrington), W Jovitt (Leeds), J Leatham (Leeds), S Martin (Leeds), P Rowley (Halifax), A Thompson (Sheffield).

Baseball strikers and owners in new talks

REPRESENTATIVES of Major League Baseball players, who have been on strike for six months, and the club owners met again in Milwaukee yesterday, trying to find a formula that will enable the parties to reopen formal negotiations.

"We're going to try to talk through a process for resuming these discussions and hopefully we'll get somewhere with that," Donald Fehr, leader of the players' union, said.

Jerry McMorris, owner of the Colorado Rockies, said a meeting on Tuesday, the first between the two sides since February 7, "was positive: I thought the air was cleared".

McMorris added: "We're going to work on where we meet, when we meet. Nothing has happened here that's been negative."

He hoped the two days of

meetings might well lead to negotiating sessions, with Phoenix a "definite possibility" as a site for the discussions, although Milwaukee and Denver had not been ruled out.

McMorris said he was concerned by Tuesday's announcement from the Teamsters' Union that its members would not deliver beer, soda and other refreshments to baseball stadiums when the season begins on April 2, if this meant crossing the players' picket lines.

The owners have said they plan to start the season using replacement players if necessary.

Fehr said he was not surprised at the Teamsters' decision. "It's been a very big, nasty, public dispute and nobody thought organised labour was going to sit on its hands."

Singapore pulls out of Malaysian football

SINGAPORE yesterday pulled its team out of the Malaysian football league, ending an often intense 70-year rivalry. Officials said that Singapore, criticised by Malaysia over match-fixing scandals, was withdrawing permanently to develop its own system.

"It is about time we should concentrate on our own league," Ibrahim Othman, president of the Football Association of Singapore (FAS), said. "The long tradition has to be broken for us to succeed."

The Malaysia Premier League includes 14 teams from Malaysia and one each from Singapore and Brunei. The top eight teams contest the Malaysia Cup, which generates heated regional passions. Singapore, which apart from two brief interludes, has been playing in the Malaysia Cup tournament since 1921, pres-

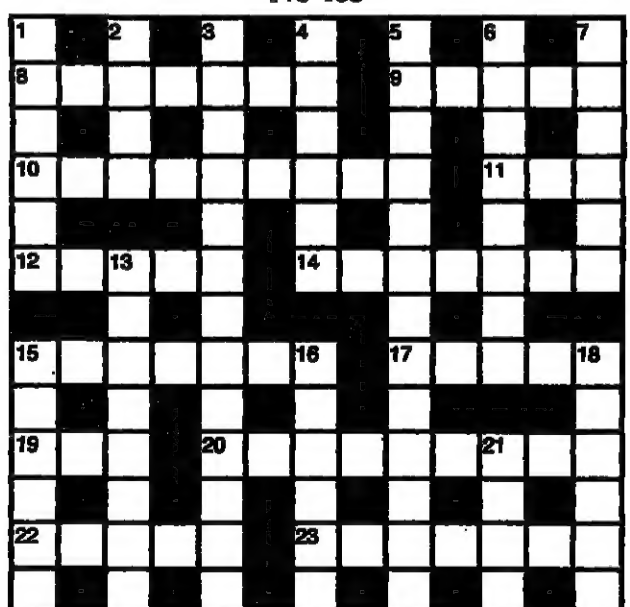
ently leads the Premier League and is the Malaysia Cup holder. It already has its own fledgling Premier League, started five years ago, but supporters have shown lukewarm support.

Othman denied the decision to pull out of the Malaysian league was linked to allegations that the FAS had not done enough to punish players involved in match-fixing. Singapore officials claimed they had asked Malaysia to name suspected footballers so that action could be taken.

In Singapore, a number of players, including the Czech, Michael Vana, have been found guilty of accepting bribes. In October, a local referee was also fined and jailed on similar charges. On Friday, Malaysia banned eight players and a coach and effectively "exiled" them to remote parts of the country.

TIMES TWO
CROSSWORD

No 403



ACROSS

- 8 Conspiracy to convict (5-2)
9 Fail to pay (tax) (5)
10 Impressive display (9)
11 Raucous noise (3)
12 Cloth for wiping (5)
14 Involve (in dispute) (7)
15 Nightclub steward (7)
17 Scottish dances; staggers (5)
19 Make a slip; be drowsy (3)
20 Wanting to move (house, job) (9)
22 Spirit of the lamp (5)
23 Swimmer's breathing tube (7)

DOWN

- 1 Counterbalance (6)
2 Trustworthy (4)
3 Prestigious annual radio talks (5,8)
4 Coin (6)
5 Echo (13)
6 One's clothes; where they hang (8)
7 Of the spring (6)
13 Hurtful (8)
15 Genial; unthreatening (6)
16 Oppose (6)
18 Rider's seat; lumber (with) (6)
21 Evangelist/physician (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 402

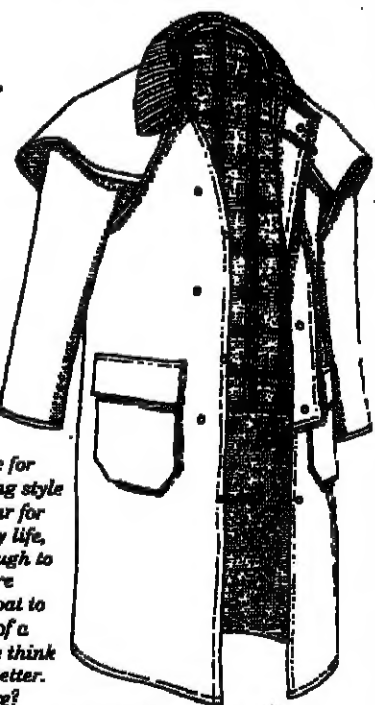
ACROSS: 1 Scruple 5 Quail 8 Wafer 9 Charade 10 Over one's head 12 Engulf 14 Cliche 17 Slow handclap 21 Iceland 22 Dunce 23 Handy 24 Dryness

DOWN: 1 Sawbones 2 Rifle 3 Parboil 4 Exceed 5 Quash 6 Aramite 7 Leek 11 Helpless 13 Gallon 15 Lady Day 16 Canid 18 Weary 19 Lunge 20 Pith

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